

NEWS ROUNDUP

More back Scots Tories, poll says

Support for the Conservative Party in Scotland has risen to 22 per cent, according to a MORI poll for the BBC and the *Scotsman* newspaper (Kerry Gill writes). A System Three poll two weeks ago put Tory support at 16 per cent.

The new poll has the Tories back in second place, pushing the Scottish National Party into third place with 19 per cent on the eve of their annual conference. The poll gives Labour 49 per cent of the vote.

The poll was conducted over three days after the resignation of Professor Ross Harper from the presidency of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association in the wake of allegations about his private life.

The Democrats' support is four per cent, down one point, with the SDP and the Greens at three per cent each.

Half of those questioned saw unemployment as the main issue, followed by the poll tax and the health service.

SNP conference, page 7

Legal aid extension

Extension of legal aid to all litigants pursuing personal injury claims was demanded yesterday by the Law Society as part of a package of reform measures (Quentin Cowdry and David Nicholson-Lord write).

It would mean abolition of means-testing which, the society says, deters some claimants and causes unnecessary anxiety for others. Litigants would instead pay a flat-rate administration charge, probably not more than £50. "We don't believe this will be costly, as the large majority of personal injury cases are successful," a spokesman said.

Granada TV dispute

More than 1,000 cameramen, technicians and journalists at Granada Television in Manchester will today be urged to return new contracts of employment to the company, unsigned (Tim Jones writes). They claim working conditions set out in the documents would place "an intolerable strain" on them. Company executives have spent more than 40 hours discussing the proposals with local union negotiations in an attempt to reduce overmanning.

Mission to Mongolia

Lady Trumpington, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, is to make the first visit by a British minister to Mongolia, it was announced yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes). She will head a trade mission organized by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry from September 22 to 26. British exports to Mongolia have risen from £1 million in 1987 to £2.2 million in the first six months of this year.

Spy wins an apology

Greville Wynne, the British spy who spent 18 months in a Soviet jail, was given a public apology yesterday for comments about him in a book, *The Friends*, written by Rupert Allason under the pseudonym Nigel West. The High Court was told that Mr Wynne — sentenced by the Russians to eight years but exchanged for the Russian spy Gordon Lonsdale — had also received "substantial" libel damages from the publishers Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

US bridge protest

The United States team began its defence of the two world bridge championships, the Bermuda Bowl (open series) and the Venice Cup (ladies) at the semi-final stage in Perth, Western Australia, yesterday (Harold Franklin writes). In the Bermuda Bowl the US team met Australia while in the Venice Cup it faced Canada. Before play began the US lodged a protest against the artificial bidding systems used by the Poles and an inquiry upheld the complaint.

Gould urges the Government to step in with public money

'Britain must control Ferranti'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Bryan Gould, the Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, yesterday urged the Government to use public money to support Ferranti, one of the country's biggest employers, rather than allow it to fall into foreign hands.

He called on Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to "make a clear statement that there is no way he would allow this major British defence contractor to pass into foreign hands."

Mr Gould said: "I do not think we can afford to see Ferranti lost to British control."

He said the Government should make it clear that if financial help was required, that help would be forthcoming from British sources and be public money if necessary.

Asked on *The World at One* on BBC radio if that meant the Government should bail out Ferranti, Mr Gould said: "I think that is the case."

He added, however, that any money that the taxpayer put in should be accompanied by a share of the equity in the firm. Mr Gould said that it would be most unfortunate if London acquired the reputation of being the place where shady deals could be done and rules could be bent.

Mr Martin O'Neill, shadow Secretary of State for Defence, called for an assurance from the Government that events in the United States would not jeopardize the security of employment for workers at Ferranti and the survival of the company itself.

In a letter to Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, Mr O'Neill asked whether the current difficulties would endanger the prospects for the

Ferranti-led consortium winning the contract for the European fighter aircraft radar.

He said: "I am very worried that the first priority of this government will be to re-establish Ferranti's listing on the Stock Exchange. Surely the defence of this country has a higher priority than the interests of financial institutions."

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, was yesterday called upon to return to Scotland immediately to discuss the crisis threatening Ferranti (Kerry Gill writes).

The demand was made by the Scottish group of Labour MPs who want assurances on the future of the company and, in particular, the Edinburgh-based Ferranti Defence Systems.

Mr Rifkind, who is on a Pacific-wide mission to nurture trade links with Scotland, must not stand aside when the future of almost 8,000 Scottish jobs were in jeopardy, the group said after a meeting in Glasgow.

There are fears that Ferranti's Scottish arm, the biggest in the company's UK network, could fall into foreign hands. Some MPs believe that Defence Systems, engaged in developing aircraft navigation systems, radar and instrument display, should be taken into public ownership to avoid any risk of asset-stripping by a foreign buyer.

After their meeting, the group issued a statement saying that it would be a "tragedy" if the Scottish industry were to be damaged because of events on the other side of the Atlantic.

"Ferranti is a major Scottish



Sir Derek Alton-Jones, chairman of Ferranti (left), pictured earlier this year with Mr James Guerin, who resigned as deputy chairman in May. Sir Derek told employees yesterday: "The company and its advisers have been misled and possibly made victims of serious fraud."

employer and, as such, there can be no excuse for Scottish ministers standing aside ... this is particularly the case when the threat to jobs in the industry stems from events well outside the control of the workforce," they said.

Labour MPs have called on Scottish Office ministers to remind both the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade and Industry of Ferranti's importance in industrial and employment

terms. A delegation is prepared to meet Mr Rifkind at the earliest opportunity because of the seriousness of the situation.

They do not rule out public control if it would safeguard Ferranti from either break-up or predatory take-over bids.

Mr Ron Brown, Labour MP for Leith, whose constituency takes in much of the Ferranti plant, said a so-called friendly take-over would be a disaster as it would lead to asset

stripping and loss of jobs. "I want the Parliamentary Labour Party to be more forceful," Mr Brown said. "The Government must act quickly to ensure the independence of the company."

Any talk of a rescue bid was dangerous, Mr Brown said. He insisted that there was a need to take Ferranti into public ownership because a buyer would sell off assets to justify its costs and this would inevitably lead to job losses.

Serious Fraud Office called in

Continued from page 1 employees by saying that the Ferranti's "mainstream business is in good heart."

The major area of alleged fraud centres around a £150 million missile contract for Pakistan, supposedly arranged by Mr Guerin. A number of other smaller contracts are also involved.

Yesterday an official at the Pakistan Embassy denied there had ever been a contract with ISC. "We don't know anything about this missile contract. We deal with Ferranti but not with ISC."

The official said that Pakistan was not in the market for a missile and that there had been no dealings with Mr Guerin. He insisted that the only dealings involving the US were on a government to government basis.

Mr Nathan Blackwell, Ferranti's main marketing director, is currently in Pakistan with a team of experts to try and find out the truth behind the alleged contracts.

The Serious Fraud Office, which has experts in accountancy and financial law as well as officers trained in fraud cases, has already opened a file on ISC.

Documents which were handed over to the DTI by Ferranti have been passed on to the SFO.

The DTI refused to say whether it would hold its own investigation, but it is inevitable that a full internal inquiry will be carried out if Cooper and Lybrand turn up evidence of fraud. The Stock Exchange is also awaiting the results of the accountants' inquiry.

CORRECTIONS

In the table of crop results (September 18) a decimal point was omitted before the last figure of the county estimates of potato and sugar-beet yields.

The cloud in Leo (Science Report, August 18) is about six times larger than our galaxy, not 6,000 as stated. Triton, the largest moon of Neptune, is not the only satellite to have a retrograde orbit (August 1); four minor moons of Jupiter and one of Saturn also move in retrograde orbits.

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SDP still seeking pre-election pacts with other parties

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Members of Dr David Owen's Social Democratic Party yesterday intensified their calls, in the wake of last week's conference of the Social and Liberal Democrats, for a pre-election deal with other parties in order to defeat Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Mrs Rosie Barnes, one of the party's three MPs, said that although other parties had set their face against pacts, that situation might change when they were "looking down the barrel of a gun" at the next general election.

As the SDP published its agenda for its annual conference in Scarborough next week, Dr Owen and many of his leading followers said there would have to be greater co-operation between the parties to defeat the Government.

Mr Mike Thomas, party vice-president, told a Westminster press conference that the SDP had followed the SLD conference with interest. Although the SLD appeared ready to consider post-election agreements, co-operation was prevented by it seeming not to want to work with another party before the election. Mr John Cartwright, the

party president, said in his report to the conference that the politics of the past few months would have been very different had the SLD engaged in more by-election deals.

He said he hoped the deal the two parties reached over the Vauxhall by-election "shows that the SLD have at last seen the commonsense of avoiding damaging conflicts".

He said that if the SLD had followed the SDP suggestion and negotiated a deal whereby the SLD stood down in the Richmond by-election to help the SDP, with the SDP withdrawing from the SLD in the Epping Forest contest, each party would now have an extra MP and the two of them would have built up a stronger momentum for the county and European elections.

That point was also emphasized by Dr Owen in his report to the conference. He said the rise of the Green Party showed up the nonsense of the earlier claims put forward by Liberals and Social Democrats who favoured merger that there was no room for a fourth political party.

He said the SLD, as well as the SDP, should re-examine

strengths of the former alliance. It enabled the centre ground to span a breadth of support that could not be contained within either one of the Alliance parties. "With multi-party politics still operating, it makes little sense for us to continue to fight each other."

The conference, the first since the SDP scaled down its activities, will meet for three days. Party membership remains at about 11,000 and 600 delegates are expected at Scarborough.

There will be debates on defence, concentrating on the future of European defence co-operation, the economy, in which there will be a call for a tough anti-inflation stance in any future system of European central banks, and the Salman Rushdie affair, in which there will be demands for the blasphemy laws to be scrapped. There will also be calls for the appointment of a new safety minister, based in the Home Office but with responsibility over other departments.

Mrs Barnes said she was confident the SDP still had a future, but it would be a long, hard haul back.

Setting a course for the RAF

PHIL CALLAGHAN



Set to be the first women navigators in the RAF are Pilot Officer Anne-Marie Dawe, aged 21, of Romford, Pilot Officer Sally Hawkins, aged 20, of Wolverhampton, and Flying Officer Wendy Smith, aged 25, of Bournemouth, who began training at RAF Finningley yesterday.

Rapid response to Humber oil slick prevented disaster

By Peter Davenport

Emergency services involved in the operation to contain the oil slick resulting from the tanker collision in the Humber estuary were yesterday credited with preventing an accident from turning into a disaster.

The Government and wildlife and conservation groups said that environmental damage could have been much more severe without such a swift response to the accident, which resulted in 800 tonnes of oil seeping into the sea.

After two full days of anti-pollution operations in the North Sea, officials co-ordinating the response to the collision said last night they believed that the risk to wildlife was small. The 21-mile slick was breaking up and responding to a bombardment of chemicals.

Mr Patrick McLoughlin, Under Secretary of State for Transport, who visited the estuary yesterday, praised the rapid response of the emergency services. He said: "The chance of any lasting pollution damage now seems very small. The oil slick is breaking up."

The collision between the Maltese-registered Fiona, riding at anchor awaiting berthing instructions and carrying 46,500 tonnes of low sulphur fuel oil, and the

Phillips Oklahoma, loaded with 52,000 tonnes of crude oil, happened 1½ miles north-east of the Spurn Light Float, five miles off the mouth of the Humber, one of the busiest ports in the United Kingdom.

Department of Transport investigators have started an inquiry.

They will question the captains and crews of both vessels, as well as inspect the damage to each ship.

The inspectors will report to Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport. A full inquiry may take up to six months but it is possible that an interim report will be published.

The Humber estuary is designated as a site of special scientific interest. The area from north of the Humber to the Wash in the south is home to more than 150,000 birds, as well being an important resting point for others migrating south from Scandinavia.

Yesterday Mr David Steele, a scientist with the Nature Conservancy Council, went on a surveillance flight over the affected area and reported that very few birds were present. He said the area would be monitored for "some time" because of the risk of the oil polluting their feeding grounds in the estuary.

Licensing hours

Most public houses open for tourists

By John Young

Between a third and half of all public houses in England are benefiting from the relaxation of licensing hours that were introduced just over a year ago, the Brewers Society said yesterday.

In areas that attract large numbers of tourists, as many as four out of five have expanded their opening hours and range of services to meet demand, not only for alcoholic drinks but also for meals, morning coffee, afternoon teas and evening entertainment.

The National Licensed Victuallers Association said the relaxation in opening hours had allowed its members to open "at hours that suited their customers".

The Courage group, one of the "big six" breweries, estimates that 45 per cent of its 3,700 tenants are making maximum use of the relaxation by opening from 11am to 11pm, and that most of the others are finding it of some advantage, especially being able to stay open until 3pm at lunchtime on Sundays.

The Brewers Society rejected suggestions that more than half the public houses had reverted to former opening hours after experimenting with all-day opening.

A spokesman said it was too early to assess the long-term effects on the trade. "We have said all along that it would take at least three or four years

to judge the success of the scheme in England and Wales," he said.

To suggest that disillusioned tenants were going back to the old hours because they had found that all-day opening did not pay was nonsense, he said. In areas where most people were out at work all day, there was clearly little to be gained from staying open in the afternoons, and consequently tenants had never bothered to experiment with extended hours.

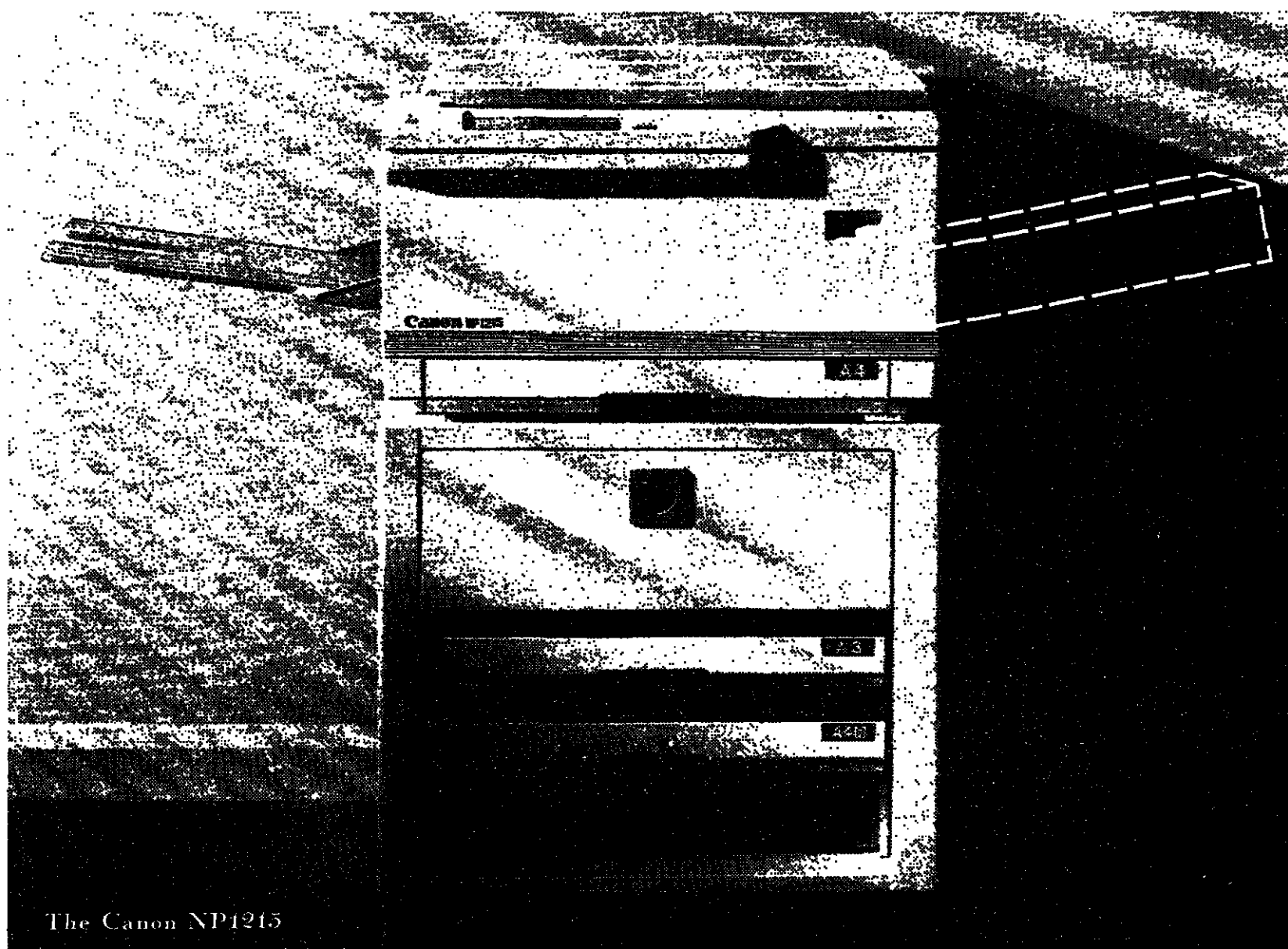
Police forces had not reported a rise in crime as a result of extended hours, and there had been little or no increase in alcohol abuse.

The NLVA said: "We think that the new arrangements are working. Our view is that our members are making changes that suit them and their customers."

"The whole point is that it works in different ways for different people in different places," an official said.

Customers no longer had to bolt down the last pint at lunchtime because they had time to finish it at leisure. For the same reason the association would welcome a similar relaxation of the 11pm closing, which it considered would result in less trouble and danger to the community because customers would no longer all be leaving public houses at the same time.

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Lecturers to vote on exam work boycott in contract dispute

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Polytechnic and college lecturers yesterday announced plans for a campaign of industrial action which could affect students within weeks of the new term starting next month.

More than 17,000 members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (Natfhe) are to be balloted on a call to ban all work on examinations and continuous assessment from November.

Among the first victims of the proposed action may be the 650 postgraduate students on one-year law courses at eight polytechnics studying for the joint Bar and Law Society common professional examination. Their examinations are largely set and marked by lecturers and their courses could be seriously disrupted if continuous assessment marking is halted.

Mr Nicholas Saunders, Head of Legal Education at the Law Society, said that the 4,000 postgraduates studying for the summer finals could be affected if the ban stopped their progress being monitored. Many degree courses at polytechnics involve substantial continuous assessment as

do courses leading to non-degree qualifications. All could be badly hit by a prolonged ban on examinations and testing.

The action is in protest at what the union says are unacceptable conditions attached to an 8.4 per cent pay offer. The employers want to introduce a new contract under which lecturers' holidays would be cut from 14 weeks to six.

At present the 22,000 polytechnic and college lecturers are required to teach for 17 hours a week for 36 weeks a year plus two weeks for administrative duties. Under the new contract they would have 46 weeks of "directed work".

The employers — the Polytechnics and Colleges Employers Forum — say that the deal will be worth 11.4 per cent to more than half of their academics who are stuck at the top of the main senior lecturer grade.

The union, however, says that the offer represents only 5.8 per cent in real terms and claims the new contract is an attack on the professionalism of academics. Under the deal

being proposed the basic lecturers scale would run from £11,490 to £16,659, compared with an existing scale of £10,599 to £15,369.

Senior lecturers could earn up to £20,676 and those on the principal lecturer grade up to £24,705. A new minimum salary of £23,000 would be set for the pay of heads of academic departments.

Mr Roger Ward, chief executive of the forum, said he was "very surprised" at the union calling the ballot. As far as the employers were concerned talks were "entering a crucial phase" and should continue.

He said: "The employers have more than met the union claims in key areas. Considering the fact that inflation is currently running at 7.3 per cent and going down this is a generous offer."

Mr David Triceman, chief union negotiator, said: "The fact that we are being forced to take this step is a tragedy and not of our choice. The employers have set a November deadline for agreement on a quite unacceptable contract." The union wants a "no strings attached" rise in line with inflation.

Viewing lost landscapes of the 1920s

TIM BISHOP



David Putnam, the film producer (centre), who is also president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, with the photographers Patrick Lichfield (left) and Norman Parkinson at the opening of an exhibition at the Festival Hall, London, of rural photographs of the 1920s. They show the English landscape before the days of motorways and intensive farming.

Campaign launched to save young lives

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

A campaign to protect more than 1,000 children a year from a potentially fatal liver disease was launched yesterday.

The condition, biliary atresia, must be operated on within eight weeks of birth to ensure survival. Without that operation the child will die or require a liver transplant before its second birthday.

The Children's Liver Disease Foundation hopes to raise £100,000 to increase awareness of the condition among parents, doctors and nurses so that early diagnosis and treatment is extended to more infants. The organization has replaced the Michael McGough Foundation, a fund-raising group named after a boy who died in 1979 of liver disease.

Biliary atresia occurs in babies who seem healthy at birth but who develop blockage of the bile duct. It is often mistaken for jaundice, but rapidly causes liver cirrhosis. The average age at death is 11 months.

The foundation is funding research into the disorder at two special units at King's College Hospital, south London, and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Minister's challenge

Museums 'must be more accessible'

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

Mr Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts, is today expected to issue challenges to museums to prepare for the year 2000 with what he is calling the "Millennium Initiative".

In a keynote speech to the Museums Association centenary conference, York, which is being opened by the Duchess of York, the patron of Museums Year, he is expected to plead for museums to be made more accessible to the general public.

That will be seen as a reference to the controversy at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where there has been reorganization of the staff to give scholars new opportunities for research and writing.

He is expected to urge them not to cut themselves off from the general public and to work for greater access to collections and their interpretations.

Pledges are also likely in his speech. He is expected to reaffirm that his priority is to get museum buildings,

particularly those of the national museums and galleries, in "tip-top condition" by 2000. It is expected that he will be promising full financial support from the Government.

Mr Luce is also expected to call on directors and museum education departments to take advantage of the Education Reform Act, which proposed changes in classroom attitudes to museums.

The minister, who called on museums to become more self-reliant and customer-conscious two years ago, is expected to congratulate them on their response.

He will announce more details of the Museums Training Institute, which the Government is initiating with the Museums Association and the Museums and Galleries Commission, and he is expected to announce funds for the next four to five years to give curators a better grounding in both traditional skills and new ones such as marketing and business planning.

Fund swelling for jailed soccer fans

By Paul Wilkinson

An appeal for £16,000 to buy out the sentences of 10 Welsh soccer fans jailed in Greece after drunken brawling in an Athens suburb seems almost certain to succeed.

A fund launched by Mr David Morgan, a Swansea businessman who witnessed the trouble late on Saturday night between Greek youths and fans after Swansea City's European Cup Winners match, has already been promised substantial support.

One family had the money for their son teleaxed from a relative in Australia and others have driven the 200 miles to Whitehall to deposit the cash at the Foreign Office.

"The response was tremendous — heart-warming," Mr Morgan, aged 26, said. "A collection round the pubs on Sunday night raised £1,000 alone and now we are just waiting for the word to get round on local radio and in the press. 'Our boys were the victims of an unprovoked at-

tack and some rough justice."

Mr Alan Williams, the Labour MP for Swansea West, had a 30-minute meeting with Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, yesterday.

He was told the British consul in Athens would investigate complaints of police ill-treatment and corruption if written statements of what went on could be provided.

The consul, Miss Maureen Lawrence, is today expected to visit the 10 fans jailed by a Greek court after the disturbances at the seaside resort of Glyfada.

Mr Williams said after his Foreign Office meeting: "I am the first person to condemn soccer hooliganism and I am not claiming the Swansea supporters are saints, but there is enough evidence of a consistent doubt about what happened for me to be worried." He feared that the reputation of British supporters went before them.

Coventry truck firm recruits overseas

By Craig Seton and Kevin Eason

A Midlands truck cab company is to recruit West German engineers because it cannot find enough skilled Britons to fill between 20 and 30 well-paid vacancies.

Motor Panels, of Coventry, is among hundreds of companies throughout Britain facing a shortage of skilled workers.

Although based at what was once the heart of British automotive technology and in a region with traditionally high unemployment, Motor Panels has been forced to look abroad for new workers and is opening a recruiting stand at the Frankfurt Motor Show to attract West German engineers who specialize in computer-aided design.

The company has also advertised for new recruits in West German newspapers and

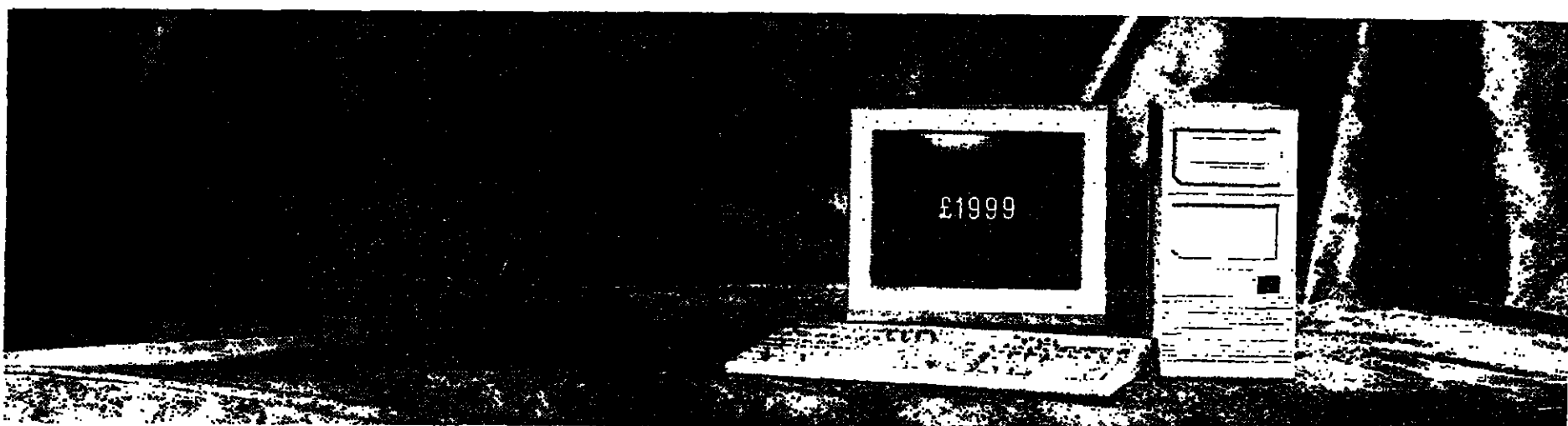
leading technical journals. Motor Panels said recruiting West German engineers would not create language difficulties, because English was the international engineering language. It refused to disclose the salaries it would be offering.

Britain's biggest car components manufacturer has created a team to tour the United States looking for inventors who can provide automotive products for the next century.

GKN, based in the Midlands, plans to lure America's brightest brains by offering cash investment so that it can maintain its lead in automotive components.

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Scottish National Party

Leaders to seek a new top gear at annual conference

By Kerry Gill

The Scottish National Party, which groups for its annual conference in Dundee tomorrow, has enjoyed its most momentous year since the early 1970s.

It began with its Inverness conference, when the party firmly established its main strategic plank of independence within Europe, and culminated in the Govan by-election, in which the SNP drove Labour out of one of its safest Scottish seats.

After Govan, the nationalists achieved a 15 per cent swing away from Labour in the Glasgow Central by-election and almost won a second European seat in Scotland North East.

In spite of achieving media coverage out of all proportion to its popular support and claiming to be the second party in Scotland, the SNP has become the victim of its own success at Govan.

Every achievement since Mr Jim Sillars's unexpected victory in November looks second-best. Critics say the nationalist bandwagon has slowed down and, privately, many members are wondering what can put the party back into top gear. Mr Gordon

Wilson, SNP leader, has found solace in the events in Eastern Europe.

He believes the resurgence of nationalism behind the Iron Curtain is the best long-term hope for an independent Scotland.

He said yesterday: "Perhaps the events in Eastern Europe will prove ultimately to be more important within Western Europe. The acceptance of national identities and the break-up of the Soviet empire can only promote our own case for independence within Europe."

The problem facing the party at this year's conference is the fact that it has achieved more unity of purpose than before. That is fine for most delegates and the leaders, who are expected to be returned almost unopposed. However, many believe that a party conference seeking to regroup its forces and consolidate its position will be devoid of the spark with which to light the imagination of would-be supporters.

Membership has grown in the past few years - to 20,000 today by all accounts - but Mr Wilson concedes that there must be much more support if

the party is to break through at the next general election.

The negative position of lambasting Labour's "Fighting Fifty" Scottish MPs (now 49) as the "Feeble Fifty" brought short-term success but also brought joy to the Tories, anxious to see leftist parties hacking pieces from each other.

The SNP will now have to embark on a positive vision for Scotland, promoting the benefits of separation from England with sound economic reasoning.

Repetition of such half-truths as "more than 60 per cent of Scots would like independence within the European Community" can be publicly destroyed at a stroke by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Some redirection has begun, with the party's promotion of an alternative Scottish budget to harness the country's indigenous wealth for Scots, cut unemployment and expand industrial aid.

The SNP will also call for increased budgets for the Scottish Development Agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board. There

are also attractive goals such as increased pensions, a cold climate allowance and better child and social security benefits.

The abolition of the community charge in favour of a local income tax related to ability to pay will be passed all but unanimously.

However, the nationalists have already been embarrassed over their "can pay, won't pay" poll tax tactic.

Last year, the party confidently predicted that 100,000 Scots would be named saying they would not pay the poll tax. The evidence is yet to be published.

The endgame for the nationalists has to be full independence, and whether most Scots want an end to the union with England and Wales is highly debatable. Thirty-five years ago, with Britain still clinging to the vestige of an empire, it would have been unthinkable.

Scots benefited hugely from the empire but now many no longer see any advantage in being governed by Westminster. The nationalists continue to feed on this dissatisfaction which is, in itself, wholly negative.

Preparing the call for a greener future



Mrs Sara Parkin, one of the leaders of the UK Green Party, at her home in the French city of Lyons where she is preparing her speech for the opening of the party's conference at Wolverhampton

on Thursday. Mrs Parkin, aged 43, a former nurse, lives in Lyons with her husband Max, a cancer specialist working for the World Health Organization there, along with their two sons Colin,

aged 15, and Douglas, aged 14. She is international liaison secretary for the British party and is the author of the standard work on green parties around the world.

Scots Tories' chief seeks Harper post

By Kerry Gill

Mr Michael Hirst, vice-chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, yesterday announced that he is to stand as a candidate for the position of president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association.

His move came after more than a week of speculation over the possible successor to Professor Ross Harper, who resigned from the presidency after allegations were made about his private life.

Mr Hirst, former MP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden, said that he had been urged to

stand for the post by a large number of people in the party. He said: "I believe that I have the experience, the enthusiasm and, importantly, the time to carry out effectively the duties of president."

So far, only one other senior Tory has thrown his cap into the ring: Mr Adrian Shinwell, the vice-president of the association. The deadline for nominations expires in three weeks.

Mr Hirst, aged 43, was appointed vice-chairman of the Scottish party by Mrs Margaret Thatcher in 1987, shortly after losing his seat in the general election. If he succeeds in his challenge for the presidency, he will have one of the toughest political jobs in Scotland.

His brief, like that of Mr Michael Forsyth, the Scottish party chairman, would be uncompromising; he would have to turn around the fortunes of the party which has only 10 Parliamentary seats out of 72 in Scotland.

Mr Teddy Taylor, the MP for Southend, who has been asked to boost Tory morale and campaigning north of the border, returned briefly to Scotland at the weekend in his new role. He is seen as the ideal man to get the Conservative message across.



Mr Hirst: "I believe that I have the experience."

Briton critically ill

A young Briton was critically ill yesterday after a fire in a cheap "backpackers" hostel in Sydney, Australia, in which six people, one also British, died (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

The dead Briton was named yesterday as Mr Darren Andrews, aged 20, from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, who was on a world trip. Police are withholding the names of two others killed, who were from Austria and Sweden, not Britain, as was first reported.

Mr Andrews, an engineer,

left home in June "to see the world". A family representative said yesterday: "We understand he was trying to shield a young girl" from the fire.

Police suspect arson and said they had recently warned councils in New South Wales about the fire dangers in hostels that have sprung up offering cheap accommodation to young tourists.

Nine other Britons needed hospital treatment after the blaze in the Down Under Hotel in King's Cross.

Prisoner recaptured

A convicted murderer who escaped from a secure ward of a Scottish psychiatric hospital was recaptured yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

John McHugh, aged 37, serving a life sentence imposed at the High Court in Ayr in 1975 for killing a waiter, was caught in his home town of East Kilbride.

McHugh, said to be dangerous, escaped from Hartwood Hospital, Lanarkshire, on Saturday night. He had been transferred to the hospital on July 3 from nearby Shotts Prison.

Cyanide spill

An investigation was launched yesterday into an overflow of 5,000 gallons of liquid cyanide solution from a tank at British Aerospace, Filton, near Bristol. Water supplies were not affected.

Artist bailed

Mr James Gilbert, aged 34, an artist, of Dormans Land, Surrey, was remanded on £20,000 bail by Uxbridge magistrates yesterday charged with smuggling cannabis worth £3,000 into Britain.

Fishing death

Wayne Barton, aged 14, of Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex, drowned in a reservoir near Tiptree early on Saturday during a night fishing trip with a friend. He is thought to have slipped to his death.

Hats recalled

Adams Children's Wear, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, has recalled 6,000 pom-pom hats after a customer said her child pulled one apart. The firm said that, when pulled apart, the hats could be easily eaten.

York gets jobs

Four hundred jobs will be created in York when HM Registry sets up a new northern regional office in the city. The government department should be fully operational by 1993-94.

NHS post

Dr Diana Walford, aged 45, is to be the new medical director of the NHS Management Executive, for the operation and management of the NHS. She succeeds Dr Ron Oliver, who is retiring.

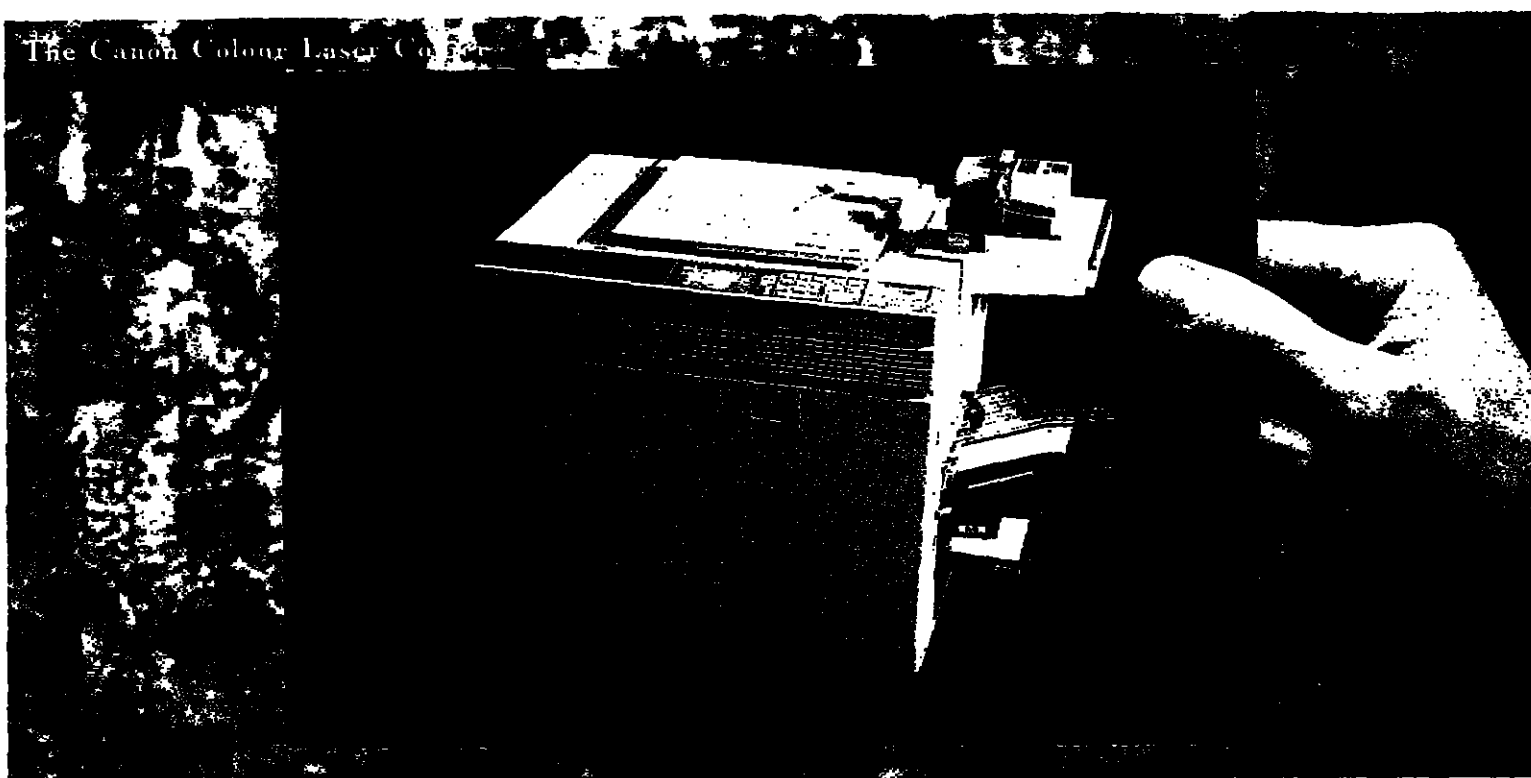
Airman killed

Captain Robert Williams, a married man from New York, serving with the US Air Force, died in a road crash on the A1 at Tempsford, Bedfordshire, on Sunday. He was in the UK on temporary duties.

Locomotion

A Class 91 electric locomotive has set a new speed record, reaching 162mph between Grantham and Peterborough on the East Coast Main Line where Mallard set the record for steam locos 51 years ago.

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Guarantee Bill may give consumers High Street clout

By Andrew Pierce

Proposals for a consumer guarantee backed by the law, covering cars and household appliances costing more than £50, were unveiled yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

Lady Oppenheim-Barnes, NCC chairman and a former minister for consumer affairs, said they represented a radical shake-up of the law and would be to the advantage of consumers.

She said: "All the evidence shows that consumer dissatisfaction with products is most serious in the motor industry and with household appliances."

The proposals are the result of two years' research and are modelled on laws in the United States. They are designed to end confusion over the present mix of guarantees by introducing clarity and simplicity to the High Street.

The Consumer Guarantee would lay down in law minimum terms with which manufacturers taking part would have to comply.

They include: free repair if anything goes wrong with a guaranteed car or household

product within 12 months of purchase; a replacement on loan or in compensation if the product is not repaired within five days (three days for cars); a choice of refund or replacement if the fault is not remedied after three attempts or if the product is in for repair for 30 days in any 12-month period.

Guarantees would be extended by the length of time a product was in repair; replacements would come with a further guarantee; and disputes under the guarantee could go to small claims courts even if the claim exceeded current limits.

No extra charge could be made for the guarantee, nor could its benefit be restricted to the purchaser.

Manufacturers would not be obliged to offer the guarantee but if they declined, they would have to display a prominent sign to this effect.

"This will reform the present situation under which consumers find it hard to tell a good guarantee from a bad one," Lady Oppenheim-Barnes said. "It should ensure that businesses which serve the customer thrive, while

those that do not will be disciplined by the market. It will stimulate competition."

The proposals have the support of the Retail Consortium, and two large car manufacturers are believed to be close to announcing their support. Some car makers have suggested that the guarantee could mean higher costs. However, that is challenged by the NCC report, which says: "The principles of a free market will correct any abuse in a matter as transparent as pricing."

The finishing touches are being put to a Parliamentary bill that the NCC expects to see piloted through the Commons by the Private Members' Bill procedure.

Talks are being planned with Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Consumer Affairs, to try to win Government support for the proposal. If the Bill becomes law, the NCC plans similar proposals to cover service industries.

The Office of Fair Trading estimates that each year about 14 million people — 38 per cent — are not satisfied with products they buy.

Curiosities by the armful as costumiers close



A 10-armed jacket made for Rolf Harris — one of the more curious items on offer when one of the country's top collections of theatrical costumes is sold — is modelled by Mr Frank Rutherford, manager of the Watts warehouse in Manchester. The jacket is one of 25,000 garments among a million items to be sold when the Princess Street building is cleared later this month because it is being sold for development. Among hundreds of television shows the firm has worked for are *The Two Ronnies* and *The Good Old Days*. A man-sized Christmas pudding made for a *Moroccan* and *Isle of Dogs* special is also on offer. Mr Bill McMullen, who bought the 100-year-old company in 1964, is planning to move to Portugal. He says the costumes alone are likely to raise £2.5 million.

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Safety system to cut plane checks

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Scientists in the United States believe they are close to developing a foolproof system for detecting cracks in aircraft, which could dramatically improve aviation safety and eliminate the need for complicated and costly tests.

The system is based on the use of a vast network of fibre-optic filaments, no thicker than a human hair, which can be pressed into the aircraft's structure during manufacture to provide a constant monitor of changes in its stress. The fibres are so small and light that they have no effect on the strength of the structure itself and can feed constant information through a number of strain sensors in key parts of the aircraft.

Mr Eric Udd, senior manager of McDonnell Douglas Electronic Systems, California, one of the leaders in the

development, said last night: "This is a most exciting development which could have many applications in both civilian and military aircraft. We hope to have a test aircraft flying with a rudimentary system installed by 1991 and should be able to offer it for commercial use soon after that."

The system — known as Fibre Optic Smart Structures and Skins — is based on the ability of the fibre optic threads to pick up minute variations in pressure and stress. As a particular part of the aircraft comes under stress, which could result in cracks, the fibre is either stretched or compressed. The changes this produces in the light through the fibres can be picked up by a computer system on board the aircraft or in the hangar.

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Embassy attack heightens Colombia's war of nerves

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

A series of terrorist actions, including an audacious mortar attack on the US Embassy, rocked Bogotá at the weekend as doubts were raised over the will of members of President Barco's Government to withstand the war of nerves being waged by Colombia's cocaine racketeers.

Only on Friday Colonel Nassim Yanine Diaz, commander of Bogotá's metropolitan police, had sought to scotch rumours among Bogotá's population that the capital was in imminent danger of a wave of "barco-terrorism". "We have absolute control of the city and its inhabitants should have confidence in the security forces," he said.

As though accepting the challenge, terrorists on Sunday night planted bombs in a shopping mall and outside three banks in Bogotá, causing severe damage. But the mortar, fired at the US Embassy from at least two blocks away, failed to explode and resulted in only superficial damage.

However, the symbolic significance of the attack will not be lost on Washington. Four banks were also the targets of dynamite explosions in Cali, the third biggest city, where a night watchman was killed.

Medellín, the second city and corporate base of the drug racket, suffered no terrorist actions over the weekend. Since the drug barons declared "total war" on the state a month ago, Medellín had been the scene of most of the bombings. Apart from the catastrophic bombing of the plant and offices of the Bogotá newspaper *El Espectador* on September 2, the capital had escaped the worst of the terrorism. That situation now seems set to change, but the targets still appear to be property, rather than people. So far only four people have reportedly been killed.

The weekend bombings heightened the already considerable pressures on the Barco Administration which is now visibly taking its toll on

several harried Cabinet ministers, all of whom are believed to be receiving a torrent of death threats from the drug mafia. Several continued to be the subject of rumours that they are on the brink of resignation, particularly Señora Mónica de Greiff, the Justice Minister.

She was widely reported to have resigned last month but since her return from the United States a week ago she has resumed her duties.

Among emergency decrees announced by President Barco a month ago was the reactivation of an extradition treaty with the US, which has since resulted in a financial functioning of the Medellín cocaine cartel being flown to Atlanta to face money laundering charges. Further extradition

conditions are expected.

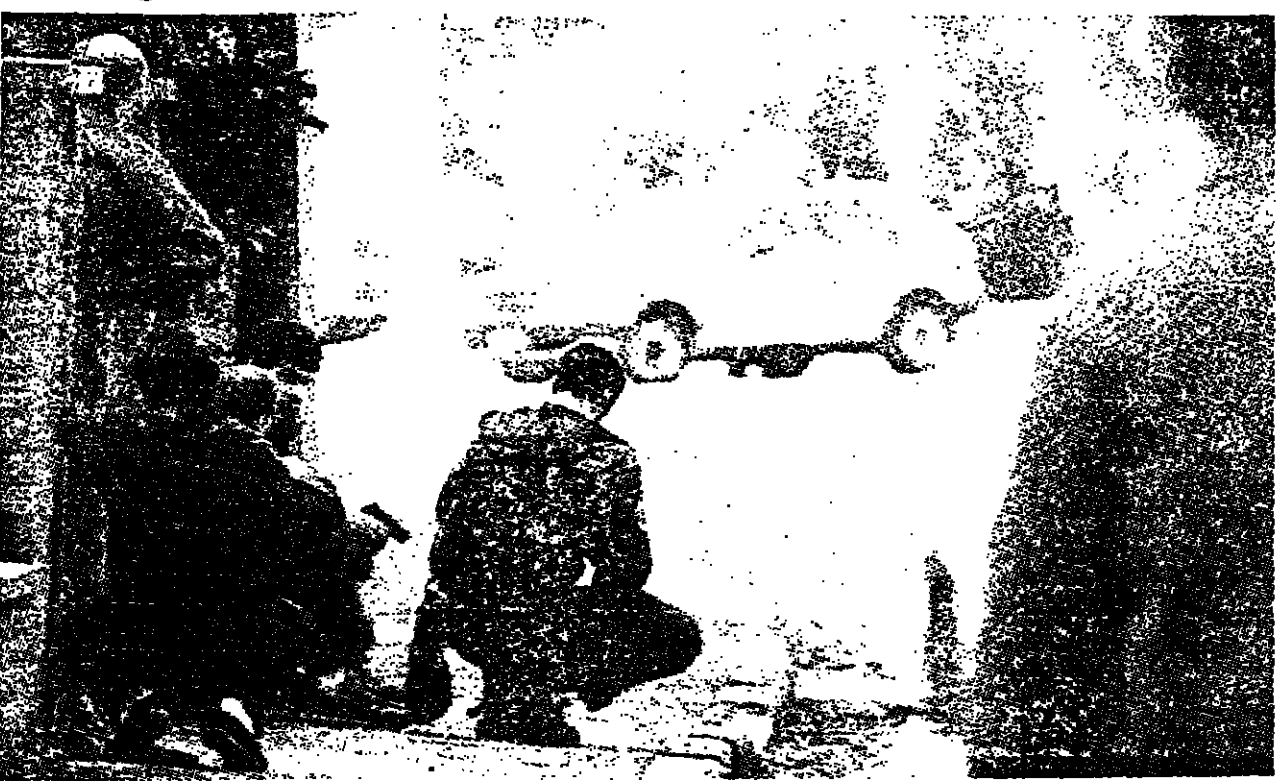
At the weekend, Senator Alberto Santofimio Botero, who is among aspirants to the Liberal party's 1990 presidential nomination, predictably expressed his unequivocal opposition to extradition: "I do not support the handing over of Colombians to be judged under another sky, in another language, under another formation and conception of life..."

However, he has become widely discredited in recent years because of his well known links to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the "godfather" of the Medellín cartel.

While extradition has always aroused nationalistic misgivings across the political spectrum, recent opinion polls have found large majorities supporting the reactivation of the treaty with Washington.

● LONDON: The Foreign Office yesterday warned the 1,200 Britons living in Colombia to take special precautions after drug barons waging a war against the Barco Government threatened to kill foreigners (Michael Evans writes). The Britons were also advised to stay away from Medellín, and exercise "caution and discretion" when travelling.

Liège robbers hold children hostage



Police watching a house yesterday in the southern Belgian city of Liège after three armed men took a woman and her two children hostage near here when they plan to rob a bank backfired. The bank manager, whom they also abducted, managed to escape, police said (AFP reports).

The gunmen have made no demands. One of the three identified himself as Philippe Delaire, aged 28, right, who escaped from a French prison in April. He is wanted by police in Belgium in connection with the September 1985 murder of the Zairean boxer, Romain Mianzula, in a nightclub here.

Delaire is also suspected of organizing the

escape by helicopter in 1987 of a prisoner jailed in the French city of Nice and of involvement in the abduction of a French gendarme in Lyon last July, Belgian court sources said.

Police said the three men captured Mr Guy Jeuris, the manager of a local bank, together with the woman and two children on Saturday and had intended to force Mr Jeuris to open the bank's safe.

But their plan was foiled when Mr Jeuris escaped on Sunday and warned police, who immediately sealed off the neighbourhood around the house where the hostages were being held in the suburb of THIF.



WORLD ROUNDUP

Hungary restores ties with Israeli

Budapest — Hungary yesterday became the first East European nation to re-establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, ending a 22-year rift which followed the 1967 Arab-Israeli War (Ernest Beck writes). Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Foreign Minister signed the accord here with his Hungarian counterpart, Mr Gyula Horn. Moscow is understood to support the move as part of its own attempt to play a larger role in influencing Middle Eastern affairs.

Austria, meanwhile, said it was downgrading relations with Israel because of its refusal to send an ambassador to Vienna while Dr Kurt Waldheim remained President.

Briton wins Emmys



The Tracey Ullman Show, featuring the British comedian Tracey Ullman, left, was voted the Outstanding Television Variety, Music or Comedy Show for the 1988-89 season at the 41st Emmy Awards in Pasadena (A Correspondent writes). Her show is carried by the three-year-old Fox Broadcasting Network.

Another British performer honoured in the Outstanding Programmes category was the actor Derek Jacobi, for his supporting role in the mini-series or special class film *The Tenth Man*.

Thatcher chat show

Tokyo — Mrs Thatcher, who arrives in Tokyo today on a four-day visit, has created a stir in Japan by agreeing to a suddenly announced plan to chat to Mr Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's Prime Minister, on live, prime-time television tomorrow evening (Joe Joseph writes).

Opposition MPs say the show is a publicity stunt to boost the image of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The party, not the Japanese Government, has arranged the broadcast, leading opposition MPs to complain that the Government is using an official visit to promote its own interests. The Japanese Foreign Ministry was initially hesitant about the idea but came round after the party applied some pressure. An official said: "It's very good that the two leaders talk with each other before the nation."

Savimbi stays away

Kinshasa (Renter) — Dr Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the Unita rebels in Angola, stayed away from a peace summit in Zaire yesterday intended to revive the collapsed ceasefire in his country's 15-year civil war.

The commander of the right-wing guerrillas sent a letter saying that he was too busy preparing for a Unita congress next week, a source close to President Mobutu of Zaire said. But another government source said that Dr Savimbi saw no reason to attend the summit seeking to reconcile differences with President dos Santos, the Marxist leader of Angola. Eight central and southern African heads of state convened their summit without Dr Savimbi on board Mr Mobutu's yacht on the Zaire river at N'Sele, about 30 miles from here.

Hanoi pull-out could boost aid

From Chris Pomery, Ho Chi Minh City

Ten and a half years after 200,000 Vietnamese soldiers marched into Cambodia to depose the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot, the troops are going home.

But as the countdown for the withdrawal of Hanoi's final batch of 26,000 soldiers enters its last seven days, the situation inside Cambodia is far from stable, with sporadic fighting reported close to the Thai-Cambodian border.

Vietnam has the most to gain from the pull-out. It had barely begun the task of post-war reconstruction before finding itself shunned internationally after its armed intervention in Cambodia in December 1978.

Now Hanoi is three years into a bold programme of free-market economic reform that could turn it from a basket case dependent on Soviet aid to an export-oriented success story such as Thailand. To do this, it needs Western development aid and investment.

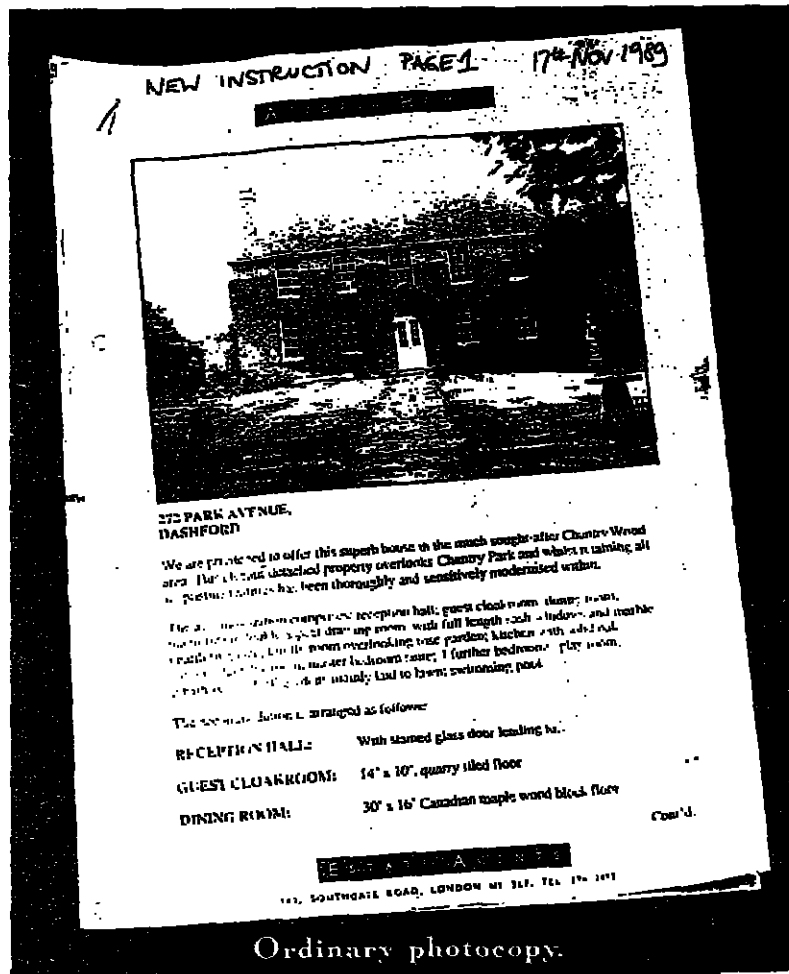
Although observers here and in Bangkok believe Cam-

bodian militia forces can withstand incursions by the Khmer Rouge and the other two Cambodian resistance groups, led by the former ruler, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and an erstwhile Prime Minister, Mr Son Sann, from their border positions, no one can say for sure what will happen after the Vietnamese leave.

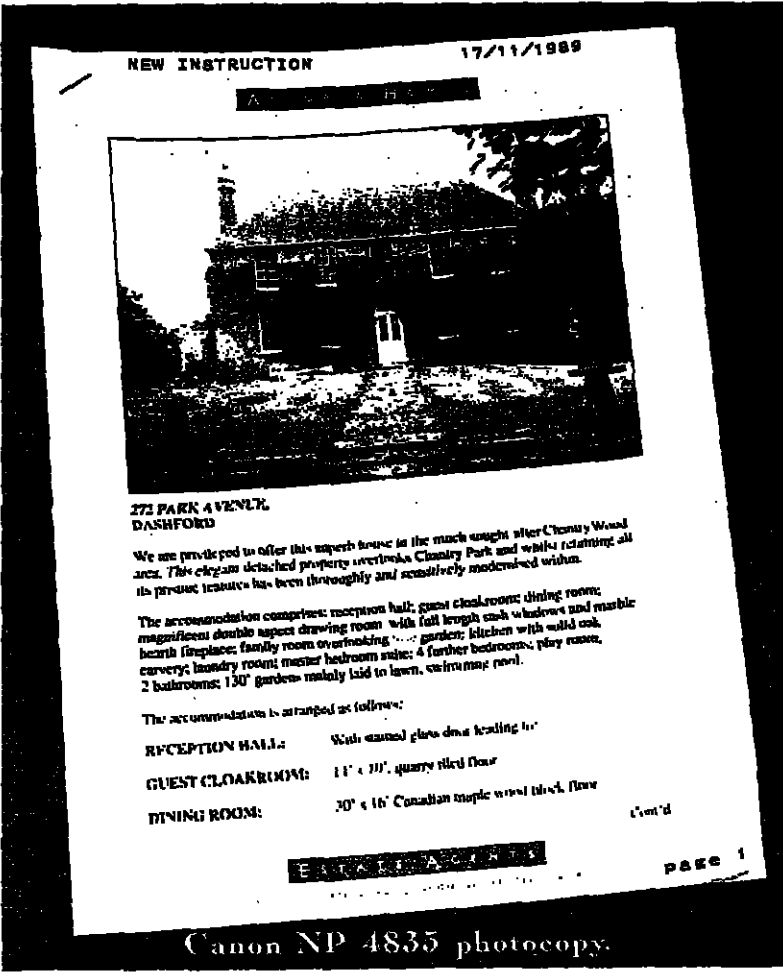
Mr Hun Sen, the Cambodian Prime Minister, went on a weekend tour of the north-western provincial cities most under threat to rally army morale. He is scheduled to travel to Bangkok later this week to discuss ceasefire arrangements with the Thai Prime Minister, Major-General Chatchai Choonbavan, an intermediary with the three resistance groups.

The uncertainty has been heightened by political waverings by the main protagonists. Two years of on-off talks between the four Cambodian parties and their backers broke down last month in Paris without agreement on a power-sharing accord and the role of the Khmer Rouge.

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's ministers

De Klerk's ministers

The Cabinet, in order of seniority, is:
Foreign affairs R.F. "Pik" Botha, Constitutional Development
and Planning and National Education Gerrit Viljoen, Defence
and General Magnus Malan, Mineral and Energy Affairs and
Public Enterprises Dr Dawie de Villiers, Justice Kobie Coetsee,
Finance Barend du Plessis, Manpower Elui Louw, Law and
Order Adrianus Vlok, Environment Affairs and Water Affairs
Gert Kotze, Education and Development Ad Dr Stoffel van der
Merwe, Home Affairs Gene Louw, Trade and Industry and
Tourism Kent Durr, Transport and Public Works and Land
Affairs George Bartlett, Planning and Provincial Affairs
Hernus Kriel, National Health and Population Development Dr
Rina Venter, Agriculture Jacob de Villiers, Administration and
Co-ordination Dr Wim de Villiers.

Polish party leaves Marx behind in search of power

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's Communist Party, displaced by Solidarity as the country's dominant political force, yesterday put on a brave face and prepared to embrace the old Marxist taboo: the free market, private enterprise and unemployment.

Addressing the first Central Committee session since the accession of the Solidarity Government, Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the party chief, set out his ideas of constructing a new party of the left. The plan is to broaden the Communist Party so that it could provide a home for anybody of vaguely social democratic leanings.

The Solidarity Government of Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki actually aids this strategy since his preference is for the Roman Catholic or Christian Democratic strand in the union movement, on issues such as abortion, Solidarity's left-wingers are much closer to the Communists than to the Prime Minister.

As the Communist Party has been pushed to the distant outskirts of power, so it has had to devise ever more daring and heretical policies. The Central Committee plenum is divided into two

phases. The first phase was yesterday and was intended to define the scope of necessary changes.

For example, one key to Poland's recovery is a massive revival of private enterprise but entrepreneurs have been shy of investing their money as long as the Communists maintain an ambiguous position and cling on to Marx.

Those changes will be discussed by party cells throughout the country, and will be formalized at the second phase of the plenum, which will be held at the end of September. A date will then be set for a party congress that will, if all goes according to the reformers' plan, reduce the Marxist component of Polish communism to the bare minimum.

In an interview with Polish television, one of the new breed of journalists told Mr Rakowski: "30 years ago you would have been deprived of party membership for the views that you are propounding."

There is some talk in the Communist Party of abolishing the party altogether, or at any rate changing its name

and structure. But Mr Slawomir Wiatr, a young Central Committee executive in charge of ideology, told reporters yesterday that there should be both "elements of continuity" — that is the maintenance of some Communist traditions — and "discontinuity".

Plainly, Mr Wiatr said, "the transformation of the system at the moment is so huge that to stick with the existing structures would be anachronistic and, as we have already seen, would lead to ineffectiveness."

The organization of the Communist Party is ill-equipped for power sharing. It has, for example, a large secretariat in charge of foreign policy that used, in effect, to determine the foreign policy of Poland. Now there is an independent Foreign Minister, close to Solidarity, while overall responsibility for foreign strategy rests with President Jaruzelski. The Communist Party no longer enters the equation, although the President is a member of the party.

The traditional decision-making hierarchy — known as democratic centralism — is also being supplanted. And

the party will have to put up with competition for membership and influence within the factories and institutions like the Army. All of this suggests a complete overhaul rather than yet another face lift.

There is no other more potent symbol of the party's slippage than the Central Committee building itself. The Central Committee basement canteen used to offer subsidised delicacies, the shop had Western cigarettes and the whole building had the scent of privilege.

Yesterday for breakfast the canteen was offering its Central Committee delegates congealed scrambled eggs, fatty sausage and ersatz coffee at high prices; the shop was poorly stocked, the car spare parts department boasted little more than hub caps, while the advertised holidays for members of the party leadership amounted to package tours to Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

The final humiliation: the Central Committee has decided to rent out offices in its building, the erstwhile fortress of Polish power, to banks and co-operatives.

Shelling answers Beirut peace plan



Rescuers in the Shia southern suburbs of Beirut sifting through the rubble of a collapsed apartment building hit by shelling between Christian and Syrian forces yesterday. Four children and their father were killed but the mother was pulled out alive.

Renewed shelling started as the Arab League's envoy who is attempting to solve the crisis, Mr Lakhdar al-Brahimi, arrived on Sunday to hear General Michel Aoun, leader of the Maronite Christians, publicly rejecting the latest League initiative (see page 1).

The general's costly "war of liberation" against the Syrian Army has killed nine more civilians in the past 48 hours.

While Mr Brahimi met Muslim leaders in west Beirut before his scheduled meeting with General Aoun yesterday, the general, in a television interview, was already baring hopes for an immediate settlement.

The interview was recorded on Saturday, presumably after the Iraqis leaked to him details of the seven-point plan produced by the tripartite committee of the Arab League in Jeddah.

The general's words only confirmed that he was in no mood to make political concessions which, with the support of the Arab League and the superpowers, could help to end six months of bloodshed in Beirut. Insisting that no solution to the crisis could be found while

Syrian troops remained in Lebanon, the general made a mockery of the proposed ceasefire and of the league's suggestions for national reconciliation. "I will not accept any initiative which violates Lebanon's sovereignty," he said.

He described calls for political reforms to give the Muslims more say in government affairs as "a trap", eventually perpetuating Syrian influence in Lebanon.

When Mr Brahimi visited east Beirut yesterday, however, he is said to have met Christian leaders who have apparently taken a more pragmatic view of the League initiative. They included Mr Georges Saade, president of the Phalange Party.

Glomp visit to defuse Auschwitz row

Warsaw — Cardinal Jozef Glomp, Poland's Primate, travels to Britain today with new proposals that he hopes will put an end to the bitter dispute over a Carmelite convent on the fringes of Auschwitz concentration camp (see page 1).

The Primate was originally scheduled to visit the United States this week but cancelled when American Jews protested at Cardinal Glomp's comments on the Carmelite controversy. Now, according

to sources here, the Primate will meet senior Jewish representatives in Britain.

Cardinal Glomp believes that the Geneva Agreement of 1987 — whereby the Roman Catholic Church agreed to move the controversial convent and set up an ecumenical prayer centre further away from the camp — should be renegotiated.

The new centre was supposed to have been completed by July this year but so far there is only a plaque marking

the construction site. Angry Jews tried to storm the convent this summer and Cardinal Glomp has accused American Jews of manipulating the media in their treatment of the controversy. This sparked off further charges of Polish anti-semitism.

Jewish spokesmen say that the Catholic Church is trying to Christianize a scene of Jewish martyrdom and that it should not be a place for prayer.

Cardinal Glomp, despite

earlier statements, seems now to be in no doubt that the convent should be moved.

● LONDON: Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a Jewish businessman who has been trying to mediate a solution to the conflict as chairman of the executive of the International Council of Christians and Jews, said yesterday that he had had no indication that Cardinal Glomp was prepared to meet representatives of the Jewish community here (see page 1).

Italian season opens

Hunters exact human toll

From Paul Bompard in Rome

The protective oil has been wiped off barrels and breeches. Beagles, setters and pointers have been underfoot to sharpen their senses, hunting boots taken out of cupboards and lovingly greased.

For the 1½ million shooting enthusiasts in Italy, the season has opened once more, and as dawn broke on Sunday morning most were in the country, fingers poised on triggers, waiting for a luckless pheasant, partridge, sparrow or hare. And in hospitals, doctors waited for the human victims.

The nation's much-maligned shooters once more managed to hurt themselves almost as much as their prey. Near Arezzo, in Tuscany, Signor Bruno Nepitella was accidentally shot and killed by his younger brother.

Near Forlì, in the Emilia Romagna, Signor Ivo Cucci was shot in the face by his brother-in-law and is critically ill. Signor Armando Lazzarini lost his right eye. The passing

cyclist was mistaken for game and treated to a shower of shotgun pellets. Near Cremona, Signor Giovanni Rambaldini accidentally shot himself in the chest.

Lesser injuries are far too numerous to list.

In Italy shooting is a sport of the masses rather than of the well-heeled few. Given the hundreds of thousands of hunters stalking a dwindling number of birds, the toll in death and injury is low.

As in the last few years, shotgun enthusiasts have had to deal with ecologists as well as a chronic scarcity of game. In several places, environmentalists were also up at dawn in favourite hunting haunts, ringing bells, blowing whistles and using loud-hailers to scare off the birds. It is probably only a matter of time before a "green" is accidentally shot.

The various green groups, who have already prepared a referendum to ban all shoot-

ing, say that wildlife is being steadily destroyed by indiscriminate hunters.

But the hunters say pollution, noise and agricultural chemicals destroy wildlife, while they spend a lot of money to replenish stocks of their favourite game.

At the moment, hunters are free to roam on public and private land as they pursue their prey, a traditional privilege that may be restricted by a new law which would automatically cancel the referendum. But politically the problem is tricky, since key parties that take a firm stand on other environmental issues are worried that laws banning or regulating shooting could mean hefty vote losses.

In the precarious balance between Italy's numerous parties, a million-vote shift would make a big difference. Given the passion this sport arouses, it seems the average cacciatore would back the party offering the most shooting.



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India and Sri Lanka sign accord for troop pull-out

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi, and Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

After months of bitter argument, India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement yesterday that could lead to the removal of all 40,000 Indian peace-keeping troops from the island by December 31.

India said it would end hostilities from 6am tomorrow against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who are being enticed by the Colombo Government to enter mainstream politics. Indian troops have battled with the Liberation Tigers for more than two years.

A speedy exodus of Indian forces from the eastern port of Trincomalee will begin almost immediately, perhaps finally ending a foreign policy entanglement that has cost India dearly in men, money and reputation.

However, the Indian peace-keeping force seems to be in a hurry to raise the Tigers' bases in the island's Eastern Province. In a six-day operation that ended last Saturday, the force had destroyed nine of the Tigers' camps in the Trincomalee district, an Indian High Commission press release said.

The strategy seems to be to try to destroy as much of the Tigers' power as possible before the ceasefire.

The accord was signed at a simple ceremony at the For-

sign Office in Colombo by Mr L.L. Mehera, the Indian High Commissioner, and Mr Bernard Tilakaratne, the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary. The Indian envoy called it, somewhat somberly, a "record of obligations on both sides".

He said that "all efforts will be made" to get the Indian force off the island by the end of the year. That falls short of an unequivocal commitment, giving India room to change its mind if events do not unfold to its liking.

For its part, Sri Lanka pledged to institute "all measures" to strengthen the civil administration as early as possible to ensure peace and normality in the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern



Mr Rajiv Gandhi: Fears a bloodbath in Sri Lanka

regions. Indian troops took control of the area at Sri Lanka's invitation more than two years ago, sweeping away what little was left of civil government after a fierce campaign by the Liberation Tigers. Since then, Indian army officers have been the only effective power.

The Colombo Government agreed to Indian demands to set up a peace committee, coinciding with the start of the ceasefire, "to afford an opportunity to all political and ethnic groups in the North-eastern Province to come together to settle their differences through a process of consultation, compromise and consensus".

The next critical move belongs to the Tigers. Both Colombo and Delhi are taking a gamble that the rebels will enter politics and not turn against rival Tamil groups as soon as the Indian forces have been withdrawn.

The joint statement made no mention of how the Tigers were to be brought into the political process. The only symbol of normal government in Tamil regions is the Northeastern Provincial Council, a body dominated by the Tigers' hated rivals, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Front.

In its present form, the

council is totally unacceptable to the Tigers. It came into being after an election widely described as fraudulent. The body is penniless, powerless and, indeed, almost defunct.

The strengthening of the "civil administration" in the north-east envisaged in the joint communiqué is probably an oblique reference to some differently structured body that will be proposed later, complete with fresh elections in which the Tigers will be expected to participate. The rebels would win overwhelmingly in the north. Other Tamil groups would make an impact in the east.

Given extensive power devolution by Colombo, the Tamil minority would thus achieve a cherished dream — substantial self-rule, free of direct government by the Sinhalese majority in most day-to-day affairs.

The delicate plan rests essentially on the readiness of the Tigers and other Tamil groups to resist score-settling after so long as bitter enemies.

India will be watching carefully, ready with practical support should it be needed. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, is determined not to be blamed for a bloodbath in Sri Lanka on the eve of a general election he is expected to call this winter.

Maude sees tragedy of boat people

From Jonathan Brande Hong Kong

Voluntary repatriation cannot solve the problem of the thousands of Vietnamese boat people waiting in detention centres here, Mr Francis Maude, the Foreign Office Minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong, admitted yesterday.

However, he issued a warning against the adoption of another system of repatriation "precipitately", dashing Hong Kong's hopes that a decision to deport people to Vietnam would be announced soon.

Speaking on a visit to Hei Ling Chau island camp, to which thousands of Vietnamese were moved after an outbreak of cholera at a holding centre in the remote Soko Islands, Mr Maude said it was a tragedy that people were risking their lives to come to Hong Kong only to find they faced "certain return".

Despite pressure from both Britain and Hong Kong, boat people still have the choice to remain in camps and are not being sent back against their will.

Since the voluntary scheme was introduced this spring just 264 boat people have returned to Vietnam on specially chartered flights. And to the great embarrassment of the authorities, one of those was last week discovered to have slipped back into the colony, accompanied by his wife and son.

Faced with opposition from the US and resistance from Vietnam, Britain has been unable to get agreement on any



Boat people on Hei Ling Chau peering through security shutters to glimpse Mr Maude.

scheme to deport those who are not accepted as bona fide political refugees under Hong Kong's tough screening policy. Mr Maude claimed that every country now accepted that

non-refugees should be returned to Vietnam, but admitted that Britain still needed to work with the international community. In a separate meeting with Hong Kong

groups campaigning for the right of abode in Britain, Mr Maude was presented with a stack of cardboard boxes containing a quarter of a million petitions.

Greek islanders fight EC over mental hospital

From Mario Mediano, Leros

A cheerful, if crude, painting showed children playing in the fields, but it looked like an obscene mockery of the chilling nightmare below.

Huddled in the basement room, 18 to 20 adolescents of both sexes, were squatting in misshapen postures, graying or crouching face down, uttering animal sounds, some of them naked exposing strange deformities, all against a stifling stench of urine and human filth.

Foreign psychiatrists and journalists stood aghast staring at this horror during a tour of the so-called children's ward of the State Mental Hospital of Leros, the eastern Aegean island.

Dr Ivor Browne, who teaches psychiatry in Dublin, said: "These are no longer children, but it is as if time has frozen for them. There is no reason to keep this ward open. It cannot be tolerated in a civilized Europe."

Not far from this, some 400 women patients live in a separate wing behind locked gates and barred windows. Until last year many women spent the day chained naked to the trees in the courtyard. Since the publication of photographs of wild naked men in a London Sunday paper 10 days ago, the patients have been made to wear smocks and sackcloth as they loiter in the sunny courtyard screaming, laughing and groaning.

Professor Browne, who, since 1984, has been advising the European Community on an eight-year psychiatric reform programme for Greece, is here for a meeting between Greek government officials and leading Greek and European psychiatrists and experts involved in the project.

They want to know if the new interim Government in Athens proposes to implement the pilot programme for Leros that its Socialist predecessor held up for almost six years, probably because the problem of the mental hospital is politically loaded.

Nearly 60 per cent of the working population of Leros is employed by the hospital. Its workforce of just under 1,000 "practical nurses" (unqualified), guards, cleaners and other auxiliary staff are on an annual payroll of £1 million. So overpowering is the role of the hospital on the island's economy that tourism is grossly under-developed in this scenically beautiful Aegean island.

One hotel-owner told me: "Why should they bother? The hospital, after all, is a hotel with 1,100 beds, with full occupancy the year round, and no complaints from the customers."

The Leros reform plan is designed to replace the present system of custody and discipline by a flexible approach based on small social rehabilitation and vocational training units to upgrade living conditions and medical treatment. The target is to phase out the hospital by 1995.

At the same time a special economic development programme to improve the island's infrastructure and opportunities and thereby lessen its dependence on the hospital, has been approved by the Community.

However, there has been a slow start and the islanders are actively opposing plans to close the hospital. The European experts have been angered by the addition of 180 new employees to the hospital's staff just before last June's general election.

Leros is treated by European psychiatrists as a test case for a Pan-European intervention in psychiatric reform.

It is regarded as the worst mental institution in Europe, but as one psychiatrist put it: "Not much worse than some sections in other European mental hospitals."

The Government is anxious to overcome this embarrassment particularly in view of the eighth World Congress of Psychiatry that will bring to Athens next month some 6,500 participants.

Strike over killings

Guernica (AP) — Businesses in the towns of two Basque separatists killed in a shoot-out with paramilitary Civil Guards closed yesterday as part of a widespread protest campaign against the deaths. Spanish National Radio said most bar and business owners in Guernica and Hernani heeded the call by the ETA, that has killed more than 600 people in its 21-year armed campaign for independence from Spain.

Worm plague

Rome (AP) — The Borghese Gallery, one of Italy's leading museums, has called in exterminators to halt an invasion of woodworms, officials said.

Suicide blast

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A farmer committing suicide caused the explosion on a train near Shanghai that killed at least 24 people on June 26.

Pilots take off

Sydney (Reuters) — Australian airlines resumed a skeleton service as some pilots broke their strike.

Death at 114

Orleans (AFP) — The second-oldest person in France, Lydie Vellard, died aged 114.

Mills resume

Ankara (Reuters) — Some 24,000 workers returned to two of Turkey's largest steel mills, ending a 137-day strike for higher wages, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said.

Soccer clash

Belgrade (Reuters) — Yugoslav soccer fans throwing lumps of concrete injured 20 policemen in clashes after a match between the Belgrade clubs Red Star and Partizan.

Spotted tie

Peking (Reuters) — Alerted by a foreigner's bid to steal industrial secrets in his necktie, an official newspaper has warned Chinese to be on their guard against foreign spies.



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Speaking to a new generation



Part 2:
Will the green bubble
survive or burst?

crime rate. But will this interest last?
In the second part of a series
by Times writers, Michael McCarthy
asks whether green issues are
really more than a passing fashion

Within a year,
environmental
concerns appear
to have become
firmly established
on the political
agenda — on a par
with trade, foreign
affairs or the



Policing the future: Sting's campaign to save the Amazon rain forests typifies a desire for action that has gathered momentum in the last year

Jonathan Porritt gives a wry chuckle. "We call it the Green Bubble," he says. "Is it going to burst?" Britain's best-known environmentalist, the director of Friends of the Earth, is but one of many looking and wondering at the astonishing rise of environmental concern to the top of the public agenda in the last year.

Other environmentalists too, while delighted at seeing the ideas they have been putting forward for two decades at last becoming mainstream rather than minority concerns, are astonished at the suddenness and extent of their acceptance, and are asking: is it all merely a fad?

Behind the undoubted bandwagon-jumping of celebrities and public relations firms, are we or are we not witnessing a real change in people's attitudes? A sea-change?

"I do not think it is a sea-change," Michael Heseltine says. He pauses before speaking, and weighs his words, as befits one who probably has more to gain than anyone else in Britain from exact political calculation.

of State for the Environment from 1979 to 1983, does not for one moment understate the political importance of current green feeling: "It is not a fad." But he does not think it is deeply-rooted.

Environmental concern, Heseltine believes, stems from prosperity. It is an aspiration people turn to when earlier, simpler needs — food, clothing, employment, basic luxuries — are satisfied. He believes not only that this is happening now in the sections of British society that Thatcherism has enriched, but that it is clearly visible throughout British social history, from the Factory Acts and the legislation protecting "children up chimneys and women down the mines", to the post-war establishment of the planning system "and the National Parks, for God's sake".

He also sees less novelty than many in the current green enthusiasm, partly because he remembers, as well as any politician, that we have been here before.

In the early 1970s a first wave of environmental concern swept across the western world, undoubtedly helped by the stunning photographs of the Earth taken by American astronauts returning from the Moon, and the sense of the planet's fragility they engendered. Pressure groups like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth were founded; the world's leaders met for their first environmental conference at Stockholm. Heseltine was then Parliamentary Under-Secretary in Britain's Department of the

Environment, newly formed by Edward Heath from three smaller ministries.

Yet in 1973 all this concern was swept away in the wake of the Arab-Israeli war, as rising oil prices threatened to torpedo western living standards.

Heseltine believes this can and will happen again with the current wave of environmental concern. "If prosperity were to disappear, the concern of the people would be for their own immediate living standards," he says. "People who need to provide food do not pursue conservation policies. Hungry and cold people chop down trees."

"I think that at present, there is a dramatic extension of concerns that you can trace back to earlier generations, born of the phenomenon of prosperity. But I do not think that there is a sea-change in people's attitudes, in philosophical terms."

Others disagree absolutely. "You can be prosperous or poor, but if you're ill, you're ill," Stanley Clinton Davis says. "Society is seen increasingly as very ill indeed, environmentally."

The former Labour Government minister, and European

Commissioner for the Environment from 1985 until 1989, rejects the ruthless economic reductionism of Heseltine's analysis; he believes there is more to environmental concern than the extra pounds in your pocket, and does not believe it would disappear now, even in a recession. "There is a difference from the early Seventies. It's not that it went off the agenda then. It was never really on. It was a minority concern. Now that it's on the agenda it's a very different proposition."

There is a fundamental change taking place, Clinton Davis believes, and it is a crisis of confidence: a rapidly increasing distrust in the institutions, governments and industries responsible for environmental protection or pollution. "There is an increasing belief that people in power have allowed bad things to happen, a disappearance of faith in authority; people compare what they're told with what they perceive with their own eyes, and their growing sense of environmental degradation is reinforced with a sense of conspiracy."

by "an amalgam of fear and concern" about the environmental problems the world now faces, which can only get worse. Many observers *The Times* spoke to stressed that the problems — global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, over-population, loss of species and habitats — were real. Many also emphasized the enormous influence of the media, of newspapers and particularly of television in bringing the reality of these problems into people's homes.

Professor Roger Jowell, director of Social and Community Planning Research, the independent social surveys institute which annually publishes *British Social Attitudes*, also sees a deep change. But he discerns the beginnings of post-Thatcher politics.

The Thatcherite values of the entrepreneurial culture have not taken root in the population as a whole, he believes, and now the pendulum may be swinging back to a renewed popularity of "wet" policies. "We've had 10 years of tough-minded reaction to the Seventies, which in Thatcher's terms were 'wet' or 'soft', with policies of welfareism and helping

the underdog. We've been putting these issues behind us as simply illegitimate but it's time for the pendulum to swing again towards the soft rather than the hard."

"We can't go back to those issues that failed us in the Seventies, that Thatcher has disposed of, and the environment is a very, very convenient issue for the tender-minded. This is an issue that will capture the imagination of radicals from all parts, of young people and of new voters and of 'wets', in a way that we have not had till now."

The role of young people is stressed by James Cornford of the Institute for Public Policy Research, the left-wing think-tank set up last year to be a "candid friend" to the Labour Party. Cornford, whose particular prediction is that the issue of animal welfare will in future figure highly on the political agenda, suggests that in the 1990s a whole generation of young people may be radicalized by environmental concern, just as in the Thirties the Auden generation was captured by socialism, and in the Sixties the generation of the Beatles and Bob Dylan was captured by a more abandoned and exuberant idealism.

"Young people coming to political consciousness now will take environmental attitudes seriously as part of their picture of the world, in a way that the older generation won't do, and that's going to be reflected in the policies of the future. The model is not everybody changing their views, but these issues being taken fundamentally more seriously by young people. As a political reality in the long-term that's going to be very important."

Others are looking at even deeper levels. Robin Grove-White sees a spiritual dimension. The former director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, now a research fellow at Lancaster University, believes a sea-change is taking place: he characterizes it as a new respect for "uncertainty".

"I mean a more respectful attitude towards our place in creation. Many social and political institutions start from the assumption that man is in control. Perhaps now we are learning again that we have our limits."

This is a committed environmentalist speaking, and there is a long way from him to somebody merely seeing a business opportunity in recycled paper. Yet for all its modishness there seems to be more to the "Green Bubble" than business opportunities.

So will it burst? Porritt foresees changes but sees environmental concern now as too firmly fixed to be shifted. "It will become a normal central concern, like the economy or foreign affairs."

It will burst properly, Heseltine feels, if real recession returns to the British economy. With the single-mindedness only given to a man of great ambition who has seen his way forward. Heseltine insists, in effect, that only the economy really matters, that living standards are everything. "Economic delivery is the basis of political power," he says.

But anxieties and anger about real threats to the world, the shifting politics of the post-Thatcher era and the attitudes of a new and possibly radical young generation — not to mention thoughts about our place in the whole scheme of things — are considerations others may not be so quick to write off.

TOMORROW

Can the Greens
become a serious
political force?

Off with their heads!

Let us see if we can get rid of the exclamation mark. It is a silly-looking thing, and misused almost as much as the apostrophe in greengrocers' shops — APPLES and PEARS. The exclamation mark is easily confused with the single inverted comma and other

stops, particularly in fax, print-out, VDU screen, and the other new mechanical forms of writing. A prevalence of gasp-marks is the mark of a naive or flashy writer, as anybody who has to read a bundle of children's essays will discover. If you have to

signpost your jokes and cleverness with a gasp to draw attention to them, they cannot be very good jokes. A deadpan presentation of such things, without punctuation to label them, is more effective. Occam's razor should be applied to grammar as well as to metaphysics. *Puncta non sunt multiplicanda.* If a punctuation mark serves no necessary purpose, commit it then to the shredder.

1. Careful grammarians recommend a gasp after interjections, such as *Hi!* It is not necessary there. Hey. See. 2. Words or phrases used as interjections take gasps. Good grief! Cripes! Archons and Archimandrites of Athens! The gasp is not essential to understanding the meaning in these.

3. The gasp is recommended for sentences introduced by the exclamatory *how* or *what*. What big teeth you have, Grandmother! How I love exclamation mark you! What a I would have died difference it of fright.

4. Wishes or curses, introduced by "may". May all your troubles be little ones! What do the gasps add? 5. As a signal that there is something (scorn, disgust, a joke, a comment) hidden in the tone of the sentence that would not be natural in the words taken by themselves. You thought it didn't matter! He learnt at last that the enemy was — himself! He puts his knife in his mouth! This category, where the gasp signals "Look out, there is more in these words than meets the eye", may be the only one where the gasp does useful work. I take the robust view that such sentences are rare, and could usually be better written to convey their point. Where the words themselves show the tone, the gasp is otiose. Exclamation marks usually (always!) signal no more than that the writer does not know his business.

6. Peremptory commands, often without a verb. Fire! Hands up! Not a word! When passed the slip of paper with "Hands up" on it, do you get them, up any more slowly because there is no exclamation mark? 7. Exclamatory or rhetorical questions. Isn't she fat! Wasn't that a terrible meal! If you punctuated such questions with a question mark, I suppose real dumbos might misunderstand, and start giving you a reasoned answer. 8. Expressions of surprise, introduced by "To think that" or (more formally) merely "That". To think that you

might have won a television satellite dish! That I should live to hear such words from my daughter! I do not see that the gasps add anything essential to such exclamations.

9. Wishes proper. Blast your eyes! May we live to see it! Are the gasps strictly necessary? 10. Ellipses and inversions do to strong emotion. Not another word! That it should have come to this! Pop goes the weasel! Essential gasps? 11. Apostrophes. You putrefying rotter! You darling man! Will you misunderstand what is being said if the exclamation marks are removed? 12. Negative expressions of surprise, introduced by "Well, if" or "Why, if". Well, if it isn't the pirate king himself! Why, if it isn't my old chum Jezebel! Is your gasp essential? 13. Wishes introduced by "if". If only you had told me! If I could just explain! I do not see the necessity for them here.

14. Wishes or curses introduced by "may". May all your troubles be little ones! What do the gasps add? 15. As a signal that there is something (scorn, disgust, a joke, a comment) hidden in the tone of the sentence that would not be natural in the words taken by themselves. You thought it didn't matter! He learnt at last that the enemy was — himself! He puts his knife in his mouth! This category, where the gasp signals "Look out, there is more in these words than meets the eye", may be the only one where the gasp does useful work. I take the robust view that such sentences are rare, and could usually be better written to convey their point. Where the words themselves show the tone, the gasp is otiose. Exclamation marks usually (always!) signal no more than that the writer does not know his business.

16. Exclamations of surprise, introduced by "To think that" or (more formally) merely "That". To think that you

might have won a television satellite dish! That I should live to hear such words from my daughter! I do not see that the gasps add anything essential to such exclamations.

17. Exclamations of surprise, introduced by "To think that" or (more formally) merely "That". To think that you

Philip Howard

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

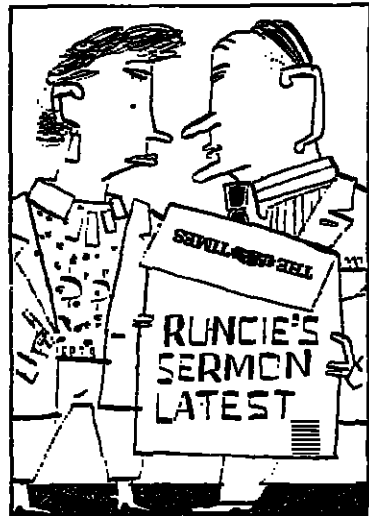
They must have a remarkably good careers advisory service at Nottingham University; one of that institution's graduates has landed himself a job as a monarch. Sultan Azlan Shah, who gained his law degree in the city of Boots and bicycles in 1953, was installed yesterday as King of Malaysia. He will, I am certain, feel perfectly secure on the throne, as his deputy king and three members of the country's cabinet are fellow Nottingham alumni. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that one of only two foreigners present at yesterday's ceremony in Kuala Lumpur was the king's old common law professor, John Smith.

We Europeans might learn something from the Malaysian monarchy; King Azlan is one of the hereditary rulers from each of Malaysia's nine states, who take the job in rotation for five-year periods. Come 1992, might there not be a case for rotating a pan-European monarchy around Queens Elizabeth, Beatrice and Margrethe, and Kings Baudouin and Juan Carlos? I suppose the French would object as they do not have a candidate to offer, although I suspect the current presidential incumbent secretly regards himself as King Francois.

Could the French have played a role in the slaughter of England's cricketers this summer? There is a distinct possibility that they did and, what is more, with the connivance of a Highland chieftain. Elf Aquitaine, the Paris-based oil company, has developed a synthetic oil now being used by some players in place of traditional linseed to preserve their willow. This disclosure comes from the Earl of Lauderdale, chief of the Clan Maitland and a director of Elf's UK subsidiary. He is reluctant to confirm whether any of the English squad have been using the stuff, but I have my suspicions that the Auld Alliance is still active against its oldest enemy.

Recent reports that ex-president Richard Nixon tried, with British help, to mount a task force to rescue the American hostages in Tehran in 1980 are, I fear, somewhat overblown. What is true is that, after the disastrous failure of Jimmy Carter's attempt at rescue with helicopters from the USS Nimitz, Nixon consulted Alan Bristow, then chairman of Bristow Helicopters, while the former was on a visit to Britain. Bristow tells me: "Mr Nixon and I just had a private conversation, in the course of which he wanted to know what the possibilities were of mounting an independent, mercenary rescue attempt on the pattern of the Israeli Entebbe raid. Because we had operated in Iran for 20 years, we knew all the problems about sand. Mr Nixon was acting on his own volition. As an ex-president he was very concerned. But nothing came of it. It was just a conversation." Relief, if I may say so, all round.

BARRY FANTONI



'There is a green hill not so far away.'

Rather too late in the day, Bath city council has decided to rescind its ill-judged ban on drinking in the open air. *Al fresco* prohibition was imposed in March as a two-year experiment to deter lager louts and vagrants disturbing the gentility of the city's public places. But all it achieved was to infuriate visitors who, in the sunniest summer of the century, could not enjoy a drink at a table outside pub or restaurant. After long and loud protests the council has admitted its mistake, leaving publicans to rue their lost takings, and the tourist office to assure would-be visitors that normality is restored.

My request last week for poetry suitable for display on the London Underground brings a flood of suggestions. Ronald Key of Cheltenham points me to T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*: "Oras, when an underground train, in the tube, stops too long between stations And the conversation rises and slowly fades into silence And you see behind every face the mental emptiness deepen Leaving only the growing terror of nothing to think about."

Eliot was discussing the darkness of God, but God appears to me to travel only rarely on the Metropolitan Line between King's Cross and Aldgate. More selections later.

Jerusalem The Arab bride at a wedding in occupied Gaza looked ravishing in her embroidered headress. But this was no ordinary wedding: no music, no dancing, "because of the *intifada*, the uprising", the young groom told me.

He was an *intifada* leader, a member of the secret "popular committees". "We will settle for nothing less than Palestinian independence", he said, over a meal of Arab sweets and coffee. "Then we can celebrate." At a nearby hospital, another Gaza militant lay wounded after a clash with troops. "I hope I die", he whispered, "a martyr for Palestine".

As Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli defence minister, began talks in Cairo on behalf of the Likud-Labour coalition, the young Arabs or *shebab*, who lead the uprising on the streets of the West Bank and Gaza, are scornful of Egypt's attempt to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians and so break the deadlock over Israel's plan for elections in the occupied territories. At the

other end of the spectrum, hardliners in the Likud party of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, also want no truck with Egyptian mediation.

Ariel Sharon, the former war hero who now heads the hardline Likud faction, returned on Sunday from a visit to America breathing fire against Yitzhak Rabin's Cairo mission and against "exploratory" Israeli-Palestinian talks based on President Hosni Mubarak's "ten-point plan". Shamir had given his word that no talks would start until the *intifada* ended; and Yassir Arafat was a terrorist who deserved death (along with Libya's Colonel Gaddafi).

Why then the flurry of hope that after 41 years of Arab-Israeli conflict and nearly two years of *intifada*, the log jam may be

moving? The answer is partly that moderates on both sides wish it to be so.

Labour, whose leaders include the increasingly dominant Rabin, sees Egypt's initiative as a catalyst, and accepts many of the "ten points" which are anathema to Likud: the trading of land for peace, the right of East Jerusalem Arabs to vote, the inclusion in a Palestinian delegation of Arabs deported from the occupied territories (in effect, PLO members).

Leading West Bank Arabs, for their part, believe—in the words of a leading Palestinian scholar, Faisal Husseini, that Rabin could become "an Israeli de Gaulle" if he achieves a breakthrough. The key, however, lies not with Rabin or Husseini but with Shamir. It was Shamir who

formed the coalition of "national unity" last December, knowing Israel might have to make a deal. It was Shamir who then sold the idea of Arab elections to his own party, overcoming a party revolt in June and assuring Sharon's supporters that elections would not lead, as they feared, to a PLO dominated Palestinian state.

Shamir now has to pull off the same feat by assuring Likud that a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to get elections off the ground will not betray everything he and Likud stand for: control of the West Bank, or "biblical Israel" for example. Mubarak has not helped Shamir by revising the "ten points" and omitting references to Israel's need for security. Shamir's aim, evidently, is to achieve an historic settlement while protecting Is-

rael's interest to the utmost. His best hope may be that Arafat will spur Mubarak, enabling Israel to maintain that it tried in vain to make peace.

But what if there is agreement on "talks about talks", with Arafat saying yes? A clue to Shamir's thinking came after the weekend cabinet meeting which reached no common view, but approved the Rabin mission. In a Likud caucus, Shamir dismissed the Mubarak ten points as "treif", or non-kosher, but spoke with unusual optimism of "movement" in the peace process.

If momentum continues to build up, Shamir could approve of talks in which a Palestinian delegation, mostly from the occupied territories, but with some "outside" Palestinians,

used the "ten points" as its starting position, while Israel tabled Shamir's original election plan. That plan, his aides say, needs no improvement. It envisages elections leading to Palestinian self-rule, with security in Israeli hands, Jewish settlements in place and final talks put off for five years.

A dialogue on this basis might silence or subdue the hardliners on both sides, at least for a while. But if it failed, both *intifada* violence and strident demands for a tougher Israeli response would almost certainly increase dramatically, with Palestinian despair matched by Israeli determination.

The Middle East peace stakes have been raised in the past week, and the rewards of peace are a step nearer. But so are the risks of failure, including the collapse of the Israeli coalition, a full scale Arab revolt, perhaps even another Middle East war. All eyes, including Israel's, will be on Mubarak when he presents the United Nations with the first fruits of his initiative in just over a week's time.

Richard Owen looks beyond the Mubarak peace initiative

Shamir holds the key

Unesco heading for the rocks

Rosemary Righter examines the failures of the organization's chief during two tough years of office

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the sick man of the UN, is again in difficulty. Two years ago, Unesco appeared to have won a reprieve, when the bid for yet another six-year term by the Senegalese Amadou Mahtar Mbow, its director-general for 13 years, was defeated. Yet this month, as Unesco prepares for the General Conference which will determine its survival, it remains mired in its degenerate past.

Mbow's successor, the Spanish biochemist Federico Mayor, admittedly inherited a disastrous situation. Many of Unesco's best staff had resigned or been dismissed, the place was packed with Mbow's cronies, and was otherwise demoralized by years of mismanagement.

Riddled with corrupt practices, the organization had also become a byword for slovenly standards of work and pointless activities. Politically contentious programmes—on disarmament, on the promotion of collective "people's rights", and above all on the relations between governments and the media—had riven Unesco's membership. These were the issues which had prompted the US and Britain to withdraw from the organization.

Yet the very scale of Unesco's crisis constituted Mayor's opportunity. Elected to sweep away the past, he started with that greatest of assets, a free hand.

He had three tasks. The first was to restore faith in Unesco's probity by investigating past misuses of funds, publishing them, and introducing systems to ensure they could not recur.

The second was to remove Mbow's henchmen, and to put future recruitment on a solid professional basis.

The third was to prepare a new programme which would attract all Unesco's members—

and coax back the US and Britain. What was needed, Mayor said, was to do less in order to do better, concentrating on a handful of objectives which firmly conformed with Unesco's constitutional duty to promote intellectual freedoms. This in turn implied jettisoning programmes which threatened those freedoms—foremost amongst them the New World Information Order Unesco had championed, which maintained that states had the right to control themselves with the content of news and that the media should support government objectives.

Mayor has made almost no progress on the first two housecleaning tasks, for which he has little enthusiasm. Past malpractice has not been exposed. Mayor's own new \$300,000 of office, with a special new lift, is no model for the new austerity—particularly as he is even more frequently absent from Unesco's Paris headquarters than the peripatetic Mbow.

Most of Mbow's principal aides are still there. Mayor's failure to recruit a high-calibre secretariat is the more serious because he has what amounts to an allergy to detail. Neither of these failures would matter so much if Mayor's third task—the creation of a programme combining realism with innovation—had been properly tackled. Here, above all, it is essential to make a clean break with Unesco's controversial past.

Mayor started with all the right aims: doing a few things well, and reaching out beyond governments to the intellectual communities which should be Unesco's constituency and power-house. Above all, he insisted that Unesco would turn its back on any policies which could



be interpreted as justifying restrictions on freedom of the press and instead seek to promote, as its constitution demands, the "free flow of ideas by word and image".

His six-year strategic plan and the more detailed work programme for the next two years, to be debated by Unesco's General Conference next month, fail to measure up. His pretensions to giving Unesco a clearer focus are cosmetic. Mbow's 14 "major programmes" have been slumped to seven, but there are in reality 17. When it comes to Unesco sub-programmes, the actual activities budgeted for, there are 182—even more than under Mbow.

The US and Britain would undoubtedly have serious reservations in these circumstances about rejoining Unesco—which Mayor claims to be his absolute priority. But the worst consequence of revamping the old agenda is that Mayor has laid himself open to attack. Unesco's Third World members have set out, where he had tried to introduce a new tone, to re-

instate the old language of confrontation.

Unesco's 51-member executive board review key sections of Mayor's six-year strategic plan. Its working group was chaired by Iba der Thiam, a former education minister of Senegal who fought a bitter last-ditch campaign in 1987 supporting Mbow's re-election and who remains in close touch with him. It was therefore not surprising that it concentrated its depredations on the one area in which Mayor had made a creditable fresh start: Unesco's communications programme.

By transforming the mediocre into the obnoxious, the board's amendments have achieved the extraordinary feat of making Mayor look like a hero. If accepted by the General Conference next month, they would turn a programme which was on balance in favour of freedom of the press into a re-run of the New World Information Order.

The flavour of the amendments is best conveyed by citing expressions the board found

intolerable and deleted. They include the "free flow of ideas by word and image". Mayor proposed that Unesco concentrate on seeing how the media could contribute to "advancing... freedom of expression and freedom of information"; the board struck this out in favour of "development of information".

Phrases like "media freedom" met a similar fate: governments would instead be encouraged by Unesco to conduct "mass education" programmes to inculcate in their citizens a "critical understanding" of the media and assist them to "react to... manipulation"—a matter in which most Third World governments, only a handful of whom tolerate a free press, already need no lessons from the Chinese Government. Such an agenda would not only make it certain that Britain and the US would stay away, it would make Unesco once again a threat to press freedom, above all in the developing world.

Yet it was unanimously accepted. Western governments, who had criticized Britain and the US for withdrawing instead of "fighting from within", collaborated. Of the Western members of the board, France and Germany were wholeheartedly in favour of joining the "consensus", and only the Swiss toyed with the possibility of dissent. The Dutch, Germans and Swiss are now prepared to concede, following domestic criticisms, that they are "concerned" by the outcome, and hope to modify it at the General Conference.

Mayor himself refused to lobby for his own programme, although he subsequently blamed the West for failing to support him. He now insists, correctly, that the board has exceeded its powers, and that he will appeal directly to the full membership at the conference. But it will take extraordinary leadership by Mayor to avert disaster. Since nothing in his two years at the helm suggests that he possesses that quality, the auguries are grim indeed.

Joining the ranks of Shaw and Shaffer?

Woodrow Wyatt recalls the fascination of writing his first play

Wednesday, October 4, is the opening night of my first play at the enchanting Grade II listed Theatre Royal at Margate. Built in 1766, it is the third oldest theatre in the country. Appropriately, at 71, I must be the oldest living writer to have a play performed for the first time. Upon Margate depends whether I can add the word "playwright" to my entry in *Who's Who*.

I was lunching next to Rachel Douglas-Home, the wife of William Douglas-Home, the distinguished playwright, before the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot. It was just before the start of my annual holiday in Italy. I hate long holidays unless I have a book or something else to write to satisfy my Victorian work ethic. Imperpetually, half-jokingly, I said to Rachel: "If William can write successful plays it must be quite easy." Ever charming, Rachel did not pour a glass of wine over my head but replied: "I think you might manage some of the dialogue but I don't think you'd know how to

get the actors on and off stage."

Ho, ho, I thought, I'll have a go. I counted the words in Shaw's three-act play *You Never Can Tell*. I studied how he got the actors on and off and the length of their speeches. Supported by this information, that August I wrote what I thought was a play. It turned out to be only the first of numerous drafts. Writing it was therapeutic and I began to understand, apart from his vegetarianism and alcohol-free diet, why Shaw kept so young.

He was 81 when his last successful play, *The Millionaire*, was first put on—Katharine Hepburn made a triumphant revival of it in London and New York in 1952. Shaw wrote more good plays than his last, *Buoyant Billions*, first performed when he was 93, was my play, called *The Division Belle* after three other titles had been abandoned.

Fortunately, my agent, Laurence Fitch, believed in it. Eventually it fell into the hands of Allan Davis who directed *No Sex Please, We're British*, which ran for 17 years. I met him at a party at the house of Sonia Melchett who, with Allan, is connected with the Royal Court Theatre. She had sent my play to him. He thought the beginning was dreadful and was about to chuck it away when he came to a point he described as "real theatre".

"Do you think what you have written is sacred?" he asked. "Would you be prepared to listen to suggestions for alterations?" "I'll do anything you like, within reason, and settle for a seven-year run." I answered eagerly. Allan became my exacting tutor. He made me see plays by modern playwrights like Hugh Whitmore, Simon Gray, Alan Bennett, Peter Shaffer, David Hare. He told me that three-act plays were out, and that mine must be two acts. I had to

make the speeches shorter and faster moving. I had to rearrange the order of the scenes and try new tricks. He paid several visits to me on other Italian holidays to see whether I had complied to his satisfaction with his instructions and to give me new ones, which he would return to inspect in a few days. I had discovered that playwrighting was not easy but damned hard, if fascinating, work.

Though intended to be funny, my play does not ever into farce like *No Sex Please, We're British*, but conforms more to the approach, I hope, of other successes, such as *A Touch of Spring*, Laurence Olivier's *Love Among the Ruins*, and *Spring and Port Wine*, for which Allan was responsible. The repairs ordered by my tutor have been made on holiday, at weekends or in the evenings. Since September 11, I have been attending rehearsals in London. We have a delightful and intelligent cast who add their own notions for

improvements, many of which are implemented if Allan and I agree to them, and new lines are written in by me, mostly on the spot or in my spare time. I find it as thrilling to hear my own lines properly delivered as seeing horses I owned years ago win a race, and one of the characters is a racehorse owner. Even at early rehearsals the play sounds surprisingly funny to me.

The play has a political background. There is a Conservative minister outside the Cabinet hoping to join it in one of the Prime Minister's reshuffles, to be announced during the two days which the play covers. We are not subsidized by the taxpayer as the National Theatre and the Royal Court are, so I have been able to avoid their obligatory anti-Government attacks and make some favourable comments on Mrs Thatcher, who does not appear, but is very much a *Deus ex machina*, or, if you prefer, a sword of Damocles in the characters' minds.

There is potential scandal in the air not merely concerning the ambitious politician but his 19-year-old son, and 17-year-old daughter. The hero's wife, though she will fight to the death to keep her family intact, is not entirely oblivious to the charm of others. I think I can fairly say that as well as tension and the unexpected always round the corner there are moments of tears as well as laughter.

The youngest player is 17-year-old Sasha York, the daughter of Susannah York, who has in younger form the ravishing looks and freshness of her mother. At 71, I was delighted to find that she thought I had got the language for her and her ultra-left brother in the play, about right.

None of the characters are remotely based on Cecil Parkinson or Lord Lambton. It is a comedy about everyday politicians in an everyday situation, against a luxurious setting. No kitchen sink stuff.

I shall certainly enjoy myself at Margate on October 4, even if no-one else does.

A sitting target for Basher



ALAN COREN

With one bound, I was free (vide Chapter 1: The Wrong Blooming Hall, *The Times*, 15th September 1989). The man from The Polish Club who was talking to the Vincent Square groundman turns out actually to live in Vincent Square, and apparently recommends Royal Horticultural Hall exhibitions to everybody.

The National Chrysanthemum Society is not a KGB front organization. The Polish Club is not an assassination bureau. Elsie King has massive but well-formed spherical blooms, faintly pink at the centre, though not as pronounced as its parent, World of Sport, and is, I am informed, apply named after a larger-than-life personality with a warm heart. A Floribund Bloomguard is a patent case which cossets cultivars travelling by Volvo.

I am indebted to the many well-wishers who have written to me

to put this labyrinthine record straight. Also to one ill-shearer. Furthermore, la Kaczmarowska turns out to be not a slinky seductress masquerading as a brilliant portrait artist, but a brilliant portrait artist masquerading as a slinky seductress.

True, as the result of her insinuation into my life, I shall end up hanging in The Polish Club, but only—contrary to last week's fears—in effigy. Pastel, to be precise.

I knew she wasn't a slinky seductress the moment she opened her studio door to my timorous tap.

"Good afternoon, Miss Kaczmarowska," I said.

"Call me Basher," she replied. This was not, as far as I know, an invitation ever extended by Marlene Dietrich; certainly, it was a far cry from "I took more than one man to change my name to Shanghai Lil." Whether this was a source of relief or disappointment to me, however, I have given up pondering.

New readers may wish to know—a long shot, I grant you—that Basher and I met on the Friday before last at The Polish Club, whither we had been beckoned by our mutual friend, Sir Clive Sinclair, to help him and a gross or two of tuxedoed guests see off a lot of vodka and *charcuterie*. By midnight (as the result, I am

convinced, of their having put something in the salami) the room seemed to have become rhomboid, but I was managing to negotiate it relatively well, so that, just after I had been button-

holed by the Pole from Vincent Square and was carefully making my way down the A-Minister again, I was able to fetch up against the lovely Ms Kaczmarowska quite gently, ie, without spilling anything out of either my glass or her dress, and very soon thereafter, she was generously offering to chalk my face.

As I had never been to Stanhope Gardens, I accepted. Mysterious blondes, as you would expect, threw through my daily life like Fair Isle wool, but opportunities to visit SW7 are scant.

Basher (possibly, on reflection, Basha, or even, given the orthographic plenitude of her race,

Bacszcza) proved to be every bit as good as her throaty word. Basher was, quite literally, a dab hand.

The studio was hung with her wondrous dabbings of the great, the good, and, it must be said, the seriously loaded. Were she able to translate my elusive essence to cartridge paper, then I, too, should have a hat-peg in that august pantheon whose doings keep the wolf from Nigel Dempster's manhole cover.

But what was that essence? Hardly had Basher flung me into a wicker chair and herself at her easel, than trouble brewed. It lay in the smile. My entire personality, in her judgement, resided

a couple of millimetres of lip. But only sometimes, and, to me, unwittingly.

It is not easy to sit motionless for three hours trying to summon up a quizzical curl for somebody else, and having struck what they want, thereafter prevent it from freezing into a shifty smirk.

Sitting at all is nightmare enough, with an artist's eye ginsmelling your core, but having to do it in the knowledge that everything you are is apparently contained in one fleeting expression which you yourself are unable to envisage is inexplicably unsettling.

Though not half as unsettling as examining, at last, the result, finding it exactly as you think yourself to be, and being told by the person who has done it that it is not.

For how will you ever know which of you is right?

As your leading headline today
"Cut-price and bonus deal for
water shares") suggests, what's
changed?

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES D. WROE,
5 Portland Place,
Brighton,
East Sussex.
September 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 18: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Somerleyton (Lord in Waiting) at the "Marchioness" River Thames Disaster Memorial Service which was held in South-west London today.

The Princess Royal was represented by Mr Richard Bedford. The engagement is announced between Patrick, only son of Mr Henry Burke, of St Omer, Jersey, and Mrs Brown Beeson, of Puerto Pollensa, Mallorca, and Treana, elder daughter of Mrs Doreen Foster, of St Saviour, Jersey, and the late Mr Frank Foster.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 18: The Princess of Wales was present at the "Marchioness" River Thames Disaster Memorial Service which was held in South-west London today.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith was in attendance. The marriage of Mr Paul Dunn, son of Mr and Mrs J.E.S. Dunn, and Miss Annabel Stephenson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Stephenson took place on Saturday, September 16, at St Giles Church, Great Longstone, Derbyshire.

The bride was given away by her father and was attended by Miss Lucy Stephenson, Miss Jemma Dunn, Rose Kingscott and Jessica Stephenson. Mr Tim Semper was best man.

YORK HOUSE
September 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wide Fund for Nature, will visit Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, East Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and India.

His Royal Highness will also pay an official visit to Bahrain. The visits will take place between October 17 and November 5 1989.

Today's royal engagements
The Queen will open the new Castle Hill Housing Association sheltered housing scheme for the elderly in Bromley at 11.00.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, will visit the charity's offices at 1-4 Hatton Place, EC1, at 10.30; and, as Patron of Redale, will attend a charity performance at the Regent Theatre, Regent Lane, at 7.35, in aid of the charity and The Prince's Trust.

The Duke of York will open Helitech '89 International Helicopter Technology and Operations Exhibition at Redhill Aerodrome at 10.45.

The Duchess of York, as patron, will open the Museums Year 1989 Conference at York University at 11.15; will visit the Treasures of Yorkshire and Humbersides exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum at 1.35; and will attend a children's event at the Hospital, York, at 2.15.

The Princess Royal will open the International Conference on Hydraulic and Environmental Modelling of Coastal Estuarine and River Waters at Bradford University at 9.00; will open the new McKee Food Service factory at Lumbeg Way, Skipton, at 12.25; and, as President of the Missions to Seamen, will visit the Birmingham Seafarers' Centre, Birmingham Docks, South Humber, at 2.45.

Princess Alexandra will attend a reception given by the Appeals Committee of the Richmond Fellowship at Claridge's hotel at 6.30.

S.R. Walker
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Samuel Richard Walker, CBE, will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 1989 at 1.15 pm at the Church Mary le Bow, Cheapside, EC2.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J.C. Broadhead
and **Dr M.A. Abas**
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. Broadhead, of Stokenham, Devon, and Melanie, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Abas, of Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

Mr F.W. Burke
and **Miss T.A. Foster**
The engagement is announced between Patrick, only son of Mr Henry Burke, of St Omer, Jersey, and Mrs Brown Beeson, of Puerto Pollensa, Mallorca, and Treana, elder daughter of Mrs Doreen Foster, of St Saviour, Jersey, and the late Mr Frank Foster.

Mr S.C. Franklin
and **Miss M.V. Youlton**
The engagement is announced between Sebastian, younger son

of His Honour Judge Peter and Mrs Paula, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Veronica, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Lawrence Youlton, of Merrick Square, London.

Mr D.J.M. Hedderley
and **Miss L.E.C. Robins**
The engagement is announced between David James Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Hedderley, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Louise Elizabeth Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.R. Robins, of Cooden, Sussex.

Mr A.J.C. Milton
and **Miss J.E. Evans**
The engagement is announced between Adam, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Milton, of Waterlands Farm, Dorking, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Evans, of Lawbrook, Polesloe, Surrey.

Mr D.C. Moore
and **Miss M.J. Watt**
The engagement is announced between Donald, second son of the late Lt Colonel and Mrs A.G.F. Moore, and Margaret, daughter of Mr Gordon Buchanan, of Kent, and the late Mrs Susan Watt. The marriage will take place in the near future.

Mr J.P.P. Rignall
and **Miss H.R. Hall**
The engagement is announced between Justin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs H.A. Rignall, of St. John's, Suffolk, and Ruth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.R. Hall, of 875 Bryant Avenue, Winnetka, Illinois.

Mr S.D. Mooney
and **Miss E. Holmes-Milner**
The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son

of Mr and Mrs Rodric Mooney, of Banister, Co Wicklow, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs J.G. Holmes-Milner, of Sandhurst Lodge, Bexhill, Sussex.

Mr G.G. Trainer
and **Miss V.C. Page**
The engagement is announced between Gary, younger son of Mr B. Trainer and Mrs S. Gillespie, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Victoria Christina, youngest daughter of Jacqueline Page and Mr John Page, of Hampstead, London.

Mr S.N.F. Wain
and **Miss H.M.G. Fletcher**
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs A. Wain, of Oxford, and Hilary, daughter of Mr David Fletcher and the late Mrs Ada Mary Fletcher, of Birmingham.

Marriages

Mr P. Dunn
and **Miss A. Stephenson**
The marriage of Mr Paul Dunn, son of Mr and Mrs J.E.S. Dunn, and Miss Annabel Stephenson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Stephenson took place on Saturday, September 16, at St Giles Church, Great Longstone, Derbyshire.

The bride was given away by her father and was attended by Miss Lucy Stephenson, Miss Jemma Dunn, Rose Kingscott and Jessica Stephenson. Mr Tim Semper was best man.

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A reception was held at The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Mr J.E. Shingles
and **Miss M.M. Stott**
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 16, 1989, at St Mary's Church, Great Longstone, Derbyshire, between Mr and Mrs J.E. Shingles, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.E.L. Shingles, and Miss Melanie Stott, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Stott. The Reverend Charles Roderick officiated, assisted by the Reverend Canon Edward London and the Reverend Barry Walker.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Miss Catherine Maraden-Smedley, Miss Katherine Spencer-Naim, Miss Sally Grant-Smith, Victoria Weir, Kate Weir and Purdey Osborne. Mr Nicholas Adams was best man.

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Mr C.B.L. Watson
and **Miss F.A. Mitchell**
The marriage took place at Holy Trinity Brompton on Friday, September 15, of Mr Charles Watson, only son of Captain and Mrs Basil Watson, of Pad dock Cottage, Idbury, Oxfordshire, and Miss Fiona Mitchell, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Mitchell, of 51 Princes Gate Mews, London SW7. The Rev Sandy Miller officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Neil, Tom and Polly Elman, Daniel Morgan, Katie Smith and Georgina Rose Hamilton. Mr Hector MacNeil was best man.

A reception was held at Church House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr M.C. Plesner
and **Miss M.R. Kirby**
The marriage took place at Chelsea Register Office, on Saturday, September 9, 1989, between Michael, son of His Hon Judge and Mrs Andrew Plesner,

of Chiswick, and Katherine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Kirby, of Aylesham in Kent.

Mr N.C.D. Sandberg
and **Miss C.L. Forrester**
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St. Paul's Church, Chelsea, between Mr and Mrs N.C.D. Sandberg, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Alec Sandberg, of Carlyle Square, London, to Miss Camilla Forrester, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Bory Forrester, of Ardmore, Isle of Mull. The Bishop of Argyll and the Isles officiated, assisted by the Reverend Dr William Pollock.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Chloe Forrester and by Jamie and Lucy Forrester and Hugo and Olivia Wilson. Mr Christopher Sandberg was best man.

The reception was held at the home of the bride, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

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THE ARTS

Victorian drama

TELEVISION

Clement Freud

At the end of the last war, I served under a commanding officer who said: "The trouble with the Royal Family is that they are so terribly middle class." This was 1944 — and for a couple of decades each side, "middle class" was a pejorative term. 20th-century speak for dull, careful, unenterprising and excluded from "society".

Queen Victoria's consort, Albert, who is featured as the first of BBC's *Eminent Victorians* with A.N. Wilson, epitomizes these qualities. He is the noble born, sober, clean-living paragon of virtue, whose miserable childhood in Saxe-Coburg culminated in an engineered marriage to his cousin, the Queen of England — she who now lies in the mausoleum at Frogmore, Windsor, surrounded by artefacts of her choice: jewellery, games, plaster casts of her children's limbs, a framed picture of her husband and a lock of John Brown's hair. (Will Mrs Thatcher be interred with someone's locks: Jeffrey Archer, Cecil Parkinson, and is left of Denis's?)

It was to the Prince Consort that Wilson ascribes the invention of the British Royal Family, epitomizing the decent things in life: thrift, cleanliness, good works and exploitation of the working classes. He died of typhoid, finished off by the drais of Windsor Castle, his health impaired by 10 years of unrelenting toothache. "Albert," said Queen Victoria, "did not fight" and she went to the Isle of Wight, missing his funeral.

It is a handsomely produced, wonderfully well written, carefully presented, illustrated lecture — which keeps the viewer riveted to the action. You want to ask questions and you wonder, unceasingly, which of the two eminent royal Victorians was the less agreeable. Her Majesty, who used to shout and scream and stamp her foot, or her consort — never liked by the people of England — who wanted to play King and was only allowed to be the major domo — essential to have on view, discouraged from giving opinions.

Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight, which looks like a superior residential home for gentlemen, represented all they found most precious in life. One hundred and forty years before the 1979 Conservative Manifesto, Victoria wrote in her day book: "It is so pleasant to have a home of one's own." Me, I want to know more about John Brown's lock of hair.

Flight at

Last weekend some newspapers devoted parts of their front pages to the "notorious scenes" at the London Coliseum for the first night of David Alden's new production of Verdi's *A Masked Ball*. There had, it is true, been a strong reaction, both for and against the production. *The Times*' critic described it as being for "connoisseurs of the cross".

But it was the newspapers' arts correspondents, most of whom had not been at the Coliseum, who filed the ludicrously inflated reports of pandemonium spilling over from auditorium to foyer. Some suspect it was another smart publicity stunt by English National Opera, whose deficit budgeting this year has also attracted media attention. Certainly ENO's pre-production advertisements — "The controversy continues" — implied that the company was hoping that *A Masked Ball* would win, if not critical acclaim, at least notoriety.

Those who on principle oppose interpretative productions with a high directorial profile usually complain of "produceritis". This is the burden of a chapter in a new book by Henry Pleasants, *Opera in Crisis*, in which the author delivers a resounding blast against "producers' perversities", not least at the ENO.

Pleasants inveighs against a "pestilence" — spreading, in his opinion, because opera is no longer "a living contemporary art". For Pleasants, opera is only opera if it has big tunes; the orchestral contribution must be subservient to the voices. In the modern period, he notes, sustained arias have been replaced by "parlando recitative or dry declamation", a development that has condemned opera to sterility and ultimate extinction. Since

With the latest English National Opera production supposedly causing a riot, opera has never generated more controversy. Despite the objections of some critics and accusations of vandalism, it pays to be notorious, reports Barry Millington

Opera takes off: an angel of death on horseback (right) dramatically rises from the stage of *A Masked Ball* at the London Coliseum

between naivety and sophistication, which both Bliss Hebert's deft production and Stephen Barlow's stylish conducting of the Ulster Orchestra capture exactly. Action is centred on a suitably astrological hexagonal dais surrounded by tall wooden stalls occupied by the chorus/stage audience.

Irish arias are smiling

OPERA

Faust
Grand Opera House, Belfast

audience's reactions is most sharply felt in the person of Méphistophélès; and in the scarlet figure of Frédéric Vasser, Paganini-like of face and balletic of physique, Barber's words meet their match. From the first flutter of his long fingers, his performance twitches with ambiguity. Every flight of romance is undercut by a diabolical of brilliantly pitched sadistic humour; every moment of pathos is sharpened by the remorseless blade of his tongue. Vasser's performance epitomizes the opera's fine balance



modern period, he notes, sustained arias have been replaced by "parlando recitative or dry declamation", a development that has condemned opera to sterility and ultimate extinction. Since

Jonathan Miller's brilliant new production of *The rise and fall of the city of Mahagonny* succeeds precisely by stripping away the rigid, outdated Brechtian trappings of symbols and Marxist dialectic. Brecht and Weill intended the piece as a modern morality play, portraying the greed and excess of an imaginary American city where the only crime is being unable to pay the bill. Miller has given it added bite by setting it in the early days of Hollywood, bringing the action uncomfortably close to home for the Los Angeles audience.

On Allen Charles Klein's handsomely and economically designed single point of focus, Faust (the sturdy American tenor Stephen Smith) studies, townsfolk dance, Marguerite (the light, fresh voiced Canadian soprano, Joanne Kolomyjec) sings, drowns her child in full view and is saved. And all the while, the chorus of slightly under-projected amateur voices observe, comment and finally light their arc of candles.

The whole enterprise seems indicative of a new operatic confidence in Belfast. After years of juggling with repertoire and policy, Opera Northern Ireland is now finding its seats sold out and, for the first time, a second short season is planned for next March.

Hilary Finch

the opera

masterpieces of 20th-century opera? Apparently not.

According to Pleasants's doomsday scenario, it has been necessary to revivify the art-form by turning to a new brand of producer who could "sustain the illusion of vitality and continuity" by altering the staging — in what, Pleasants believes, amounts to "vandalism".

Certainly opera production has been transformed in the past few decades. But is this not a wholly welcome development, one that has brought the traditional repertoire to life again for a contemporary audience? Moreover, it is in the nature of radical, interpretative productions that there is no consensus about their merits. For instance, I found the ENO *Masked Ball* an enthralling theatrical experience — but its "dance of death" imagery, with a colossal angel of death on horseback presiding over the ball, is an act of daring of a dangerous kind, teetering on the edge of overkill.

Understandably it has not appealed to all tastes. Curiously, though, another famously "modern" production — David Freeman's *Così fan tutte* for the Opera Factory — treated the composer's stage directions with no less licence, yet was received with almost universal acclaim.

Modern sensibilities are important here too. It is difficult for a 1980s audience to accept the misogynistic overtones of

Schikaneder's libretto for *The Magic Flute*, as witness the shocked gasps at the startled performances of Covent Garden's recently revived Everding production — a "faithful", but reactionary and inordinately dull affair. By contrast, Nicholas Hytner's thoughtful staging for ENO confronts the misogyny, allowing Pamina to lead Tamino through the trials. It is a gesture at once appreciated by a modern audience and "faithful", at a deeper level, to the composer, since Mozart's music is not sexist. On the contrary, as in *Così* and *Figaro* it seems especially sympathetic to the feminine sensibility.

If there is a crisis facing opera, it is not the one Pleasants describes: rather a matter of acute underfunding at a time of unprecedented popular enthusiasm for the form. It is surely no coincidence that such an enthusiasm has been generated at a time when producers have permitted themselves to take liberties with the works they are presenting — to make imaginative, creative leaps. The "riot" at the ENO may have been overhyped, but if it helps to ensure the survival of a form that can so enrich the spirit, let's have more riots.

● *Opera in Crisis* is published by Thames and Hudson next Monday (£11.95). David Freeman's production of Cavalli's *La Calisto* is revived at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tonight.

The magic of Miller

Mahagonny
Los Angeles

movies, enhanced by lighting which divides the stage into isolated pools of light and shadow, casting huge, dramatic silhouettes. The ensemble movements evoke the world of fine comedy shorts: the scene of a truck breaking down is pure Mack Sennet while the swaying chorus of a dream voyage to Alaska recalls Chaplin's *The Immigrant*.

Far from being heavy and didactic, Miller's *Mahagonny* uses humour to reinforce the work's biting satire. Slapstick and gags abound. The entry of the lumberjacks becomes a vaudeville dance number. Giotto's *The Rest on the Flight to Egypt* hangs over the arrival of the three fugitives at the beginning, while a church cross tops the building housing the

electric chair for Jimmy's execution.

The cast proves that opera singers can be just as adept at music-theatre as grand opera, given the right director. Under Miller's direction the punchy dialogue is delivered with real panache and the characterization marked by a wealth of improvised detail. Marvellous Caraga's superbly brassy Begbie is a Margaret Dumont figure with ropes of pearls and ostrich feather plumes, backed up by Greg Sever's prissy, gleefully vindictive Saity and Michael Gallup's Moses, a Rabbini-like bearded heavy, straight out of a Chaplin movie. Gary Bachman is a delirious Jenny, while Anna Steiger's Jenny is a prim Southern belle, immensely seductive in her "Moon of Alabama".

Kent Nagano's urgency and drive in the pit leads the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in a dynamic journey through the brass, jazzy rhythms and operatic range of Weill's idiomatic score.

Michael Romain

GAUGUIN

AND THE SCHOOL OF PONT-AVEN
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Polish premieres

FESTIVAL

Southampton
International New
Music Week

For the past week the Turner Sims concert hall at Southampton University has been principal home to a festival of contemporary Polish music.

Its value cannot be underestimated. Witold Lutoslawski's genial presence for the week alone ensured that; his younger compatriot, Marek Stachowski, and the British composers John Casken and Gwyn Pritchard, were also in residence.

One of the week's world premieres was Stachowski's Chamber Concerto, played in the penultimate concert by the Bristol-based group Uroboros. It was revealed as refreshingly direct and beautifully or-

chestrated (for a mixed group of six players), with repeated chords serving as clear punctuation marks around a series of increasingly complex micro-structures. This dense organism contrasted abruptly with the festive, floating textures of Lutoslawski's brief Slide (1988), written for Elliott Carter's 80th birthday and here receiving its UK premiere.

Different again was the discipline and formal simplicity of Pritchard's Madrigal, dryly expressive like neo-classical Stravinsky, and Grazyna Bacewicz's Incrustations for horn (the excellent David Cox) and chamber group, composed in 1965 and now perhaps showing its age.

Lutoslawski also dominated the final concert, at the Guildhall, conducting his Chain 3 (1986) and the recent Piano Concerto also heard at this year's Proms.

Stephen Pettitt

A real appetizer

JAZZ

Earl Turbinton
Charley's

New Orleans is famous for its musical families, from the Daddies (Johnny and Baby) of the inter-war years to the Nevilles and Marsalis of today. Had Willie Turbinton, one of the city's numberless talented piano-players, not opted for a pseudonym ("Willie Tee") on a handful of rhythm and blues hits of the 1960s, his brother Earl might now be enjoying a higher recognition factor.

Earl Turbinton is a gifted alto saxophonist whose reputation has barely escaped Louisiana. In a New York recording studio almost 20 years ago, I watched him keeping up with the fast company of Herbie Hancock and Joe Zawinul, adding vivid colours to a piece which later turned up as the highlight of a Zawinul solo album. Then he disappeared back into the undergrowth of his native habitat, relegated to the entertainments listings of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. On Sunday, out of the blue (en route home, in fact, from engagements in Europe), he appeared at Charley's, a tiny and informal restaurant off the North End Road in West Kensington which hosts jazz

five nights a week and whose young, jazz-mad proprietor cracks Scott-like jokes about food poisoning and encourages piano-playing investment analysts to leave their suppliers to sit in with the featured attraction.

Turbinton is essentially a Charlie Parker disciple with a broad, fibrous tone well suited to the heavy blues emphasis which comes so readily to New Orleans musicians, allowing him to drop a straight chorus of "Frankie and Johnny" into the burlesque of "Blue Monk" without incongruity. The pianist Jonathan Gee and the bassist Rob Miller, both encountering Turbinton for the first time, kept up well in the fast bebop set-pieces and responded to the altoist's pronounced romantic streak with great sensitivity on "Soul Eyes", one of the prettiest of purpose-built jazz ballads. John Coltrane's "Naima", on the other hand, needs to be enunciated like a prayer, and proved an unsuitable vehicle for the semi-automatic responses of a jam session.

The proprietor of Charley's says he is aiming for the excited intimacy of the old 52nd Street dives. On this night, at least, Earl Turbinton's playing lent it the pungent loucheness of the real thing.

Richard Williams

Full-speed ahead

CONCERT

LSO/Tilson
Thomas
Barbican Hall

hot quartet of clarinets; the ideas bounding through this space, or in the middle section moving more darkly and slowly, are blindingly vivid and unrelentingly, as so often in Matthews, the piece

True to his promise not to ignore new British music, Michael Tilson Thomas offered Colin Matthews's *Quartrain*, imaginatively commissioned by Shell, in his first concert of the season with the London Symphony Orchestra. It is a cracking piece, laid out for full orchestral wind as a single, if almost unwieldy, mass, as a company of two dozen wild horses yoked to the same energy (a multiplied quadding, perhaps, more than a quartet).

The harmonic space spreads deep and high, from double bassoon and tuba up to piccolo, by way of a notably loud.

Essential Reading for
Scottish Colourist Owners

CHRISTIE'S



Samuel John Peplow R.S.A. (1871-1935):
Interior with seated girl circa 1908,
signed, oil on canvas, 40 x 29 1/2 in. (101.6 x 75.7 cm).
Estimate: £150,000-200,000

A great deal has been said and written about the Four Scottish Colourists, artists Peplow, Cadell, Hunter and Fergusson.

Their performance in the saleroom has been outstanding in recent years, with Cadell reaching £214,500, Fergusson £104,500 and Hunter £52,800, culminating at Christie's last December with a world auction record for Scottish art of £506,000 paid for Peplow's 'Woman in White' portrait of Peggy McRae. But many owners still do not realise how valuable their Colourist paintings may be.

Christie's is the only auction house to hold sales devoted entirely to the four artists' work, and this year will break new ground by taking major paintings from the December 7th Colourist sale to Christie's Park Avenue saleroom in New York where they will go on view with the winter Impressionist auction which will include pictures by Picasso, Manet and Van Gogh from the Paul Mellon Collection.

If you have a Colourist painting you would like to sell please contact Alexander Meddowes in London on (01) 581 7611 or Neil McRae in Glasgow on (041) 332 8134.

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Tel: (041) 332 8134

Andy Warhol
a retrospective
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THE EXHIBITION HAS BEEN ORGANISED UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

FASHION

Kings of glitter



Above: Catherine Bailey, posing for the latest Butler & Wilson billboard, wears small pearl and gilt cuff, £78; medium pearl and gilt cuff, £98; large pearl and gilt cuff with relief pattern, £112; pearl and gilt cuff in hair, £78; gilt drop earrings, £48. All from Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1; 189 Fulham Road, SW3; Harrods, SW1.

Photograph by DAVID BAILEY

Right: Three-strand gilt necklace with jewel-encrusted disc, £98; long gilt necklace with three jewelled orbs, £78; pearl necklace with three jewelled orbs, £88; large gilt and jewel-encrusted cuffs, £112 each; red enamel and gilt medal with bow, £28; black and red enamel and gilt commemorative brooch, £28; jewelled orb earrings, £58. All from Butler & Wilson. Fuchsia wool single breasted jacket, £179. Alistair Blair for Jaeger, 200-206 Regent Street, W1 and selected branches.

Hair by Ray Allington at John Frieda. Make-up by Fiona Corrigan for Mandy Coakley.

Photograph by TONY MCGEE



Next month Butler & Wilson celebrates the glamorous coming of age of costume jewellery. During the 21 years that Nicky Butler and Simon Wilson have been in business, they have been largely responsible for transforming costume jewels from down-market, *déclassé* substitutes for the real thing to high-profile, high-fashion creations flaunted by the most famous and beautiful women in the world. The cult of costume jewellery is the fashion phenomenon of the 1980s.

A celebratory exhibition at Harrods tells the story of Butler & Wilson's design success. The two started as antique dealers in the late 1960s, selling art nouveau and art deco jewellery. When Antiquarius opened in the King's Road in Chelsea in 1969, Butler & Wilson moved in, and its cramped but charismatic stall soon became a cult shopping spot. Linda McCartney bought her husband's wedding ring there. As the demand for original old jewellery exceeded supply, Butler & Wilson began to mint its own versions. Old elements were reworked to create the most modern jewels in town.

The two of them know instinctively

Vivienne Becker hails the dynamic duo of costume jewellery

about wearing jewellery, and never stray far from their shops, preferring to talk to customers, learning exactly what they want, how their jewellery is chosen and why. They know how to break the rules, too. In the 1970s they took a fresh look at heavy, 19th-century Scottish jewellery, shaped as traditional dirks, ring brooches, garters or thistles, which they teamed not with predictable tweeds, but with a silk dress or sharp tuxedo.

The Harrods exhibition recalls many other Butler & Wilson themes of the Seventies and Eighties, from rugged American Indian silver and turquoise jewels to romantic flower necklaces recreated from old Venetian glass leaves and flowers, swarms of their famous bugs and cicadas, the charming Pierrots, and the moons and stars series.

In 1985 a commission to make tyre-track jewellery for the Pirelli calendar fitted perfectly the prevailing heavy metal look. More recently they have

awarded us glittering rows of glamorous medals, and delighted us with lizards, snakes and a menagerie of animals and insects. This season's offerings reflect Byzantine splendour, extravagant and seductive.

The billboards outside Butler & Wilson in Fulham Road have played a prominent part in the campaign to revitalize the image of costume jewellery. Since Catherine Deneuve appeared on them in 1982, a host of famous women have posed proudly in Butler & Wilson's best for the world's top fashion photographers — Charlotte Rampling, Twiggy, Faye Dunaway, Talisa Soto, Jerry Hall and Dame Edna Everage among them. Sue Lawley, a 1989 billboard, is a devoted fan: "On television I need to project a bit more, and to make a small visual joke, with a champagne glass brooch, for example. Their jewellery puts a sparkle in your eye. As it's costume jewellery I can wear it without being defensive, and as an ice breaker it's much more interesting than the weather."

● Rough Diamonds, the Butler & Wilson story, by Vivienne Becker, will be published by Pavilion Books next year. The exhibition at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 runs from October 16-30.

PEOPLE

And the real thing

October sees a bejewelled landmark in the history of London Fashion Week. Six leading British fashion designers — Bruce Oldfield, Arabella Pollen, Jean Muir, Jacques Azagury, Rifat Ozbek and Edina Ronay — have been invited to design real gold

jewellery, in a joint promotion by the World Gold Council and Harvey Nichols. This may be just the shot in the arm that real jewellery needs to fight back against competition from costume jewellery. Prices range from £400 to £4,000, and the jewels will be sold exclusively at Harvey Nichols from October 15.

● Barbara Bush is pushing pearls again this year as part of her campaign to revive traditional values, and Ciro, long famed for its cultured and fake pearls, reports strong sales of classic styles. It seems, too, that the Italians have given us a taste for lapel pins, little stick pins with jewelled motifs, which have also been best-sellers at Ciro's Bond Street boutique. Continuing the successful revitalization of its image, this week Ciro opens its first in-store site in London, at Settridges.

Liz Smith is on holiday

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The duck and drake in this delightful tapestry by Lucinda Ganderton are a rich mixture of dark and pale greens, oatmeal, lilac, pale blue, cream, peach, strawberry red and a deep mahogany brown. Surrounded by lilies and reeds they are set on a cream background and the whole design is framed in a decorative chevron border reminiscent of feathers.

Measuring 18 1/2 in x 14 1/2 in the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas. It is suitable either as a large cushion or as a picture. Worked in half-cross or tent stitch enough wool from the Rowan range is provided to complete the tapestry in either. The kit comes complete with canvas, wool, needle and instruction leaflet. All for £28.50 including post and packing. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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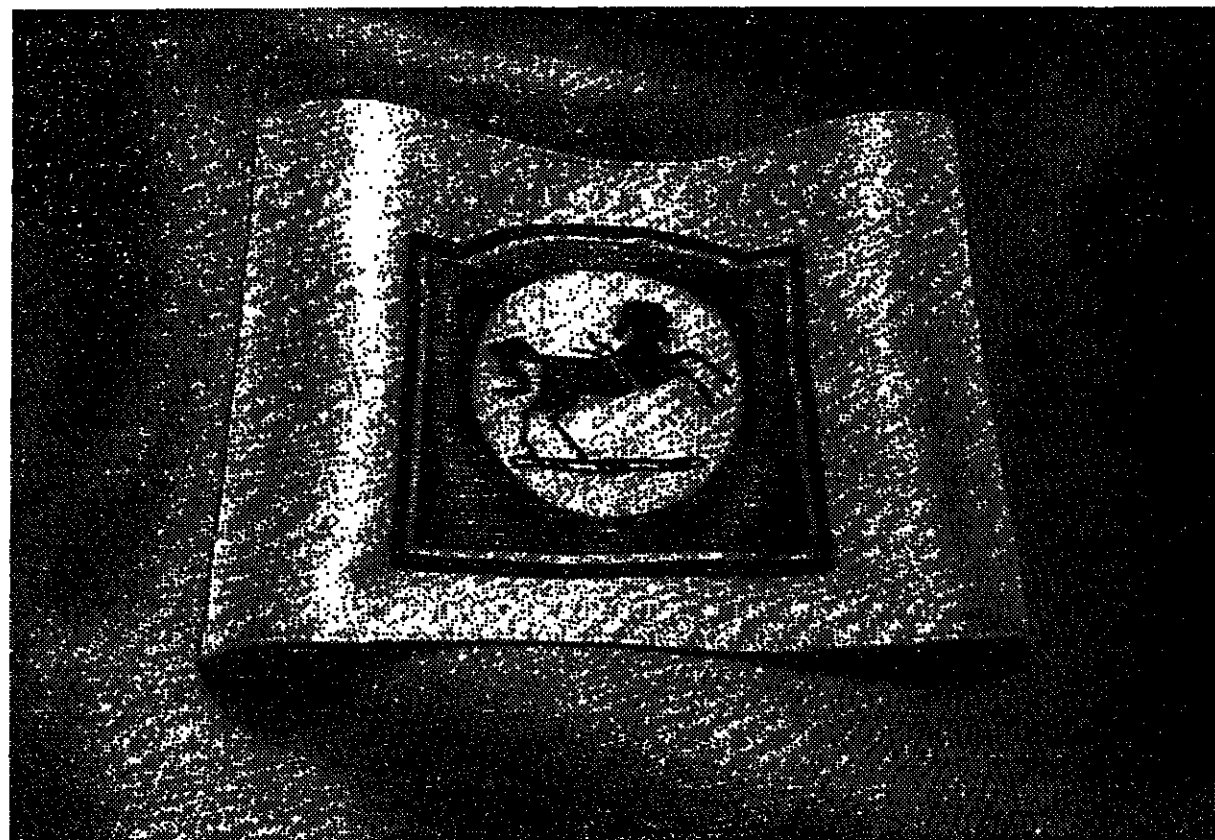
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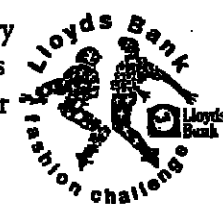
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INFORMATION SERVICE

From the fecund pen

Meek assistant: Michael Redgrave with Phyllis Calvert in H.G. Wells's *Kipps* at the Museum of London

The Museum of London's "Made in London" film seasons continue on their merry way, thanks to the riches of the National Film Archive and the benevolent sponsorship of Nomura International. Opening attractions - tonight and Thursday - both derive from the fecund pen of H.G. Wells. *Kipps* (1941) finds Michael Redgrave as the meek draper's assistant who wins and loses a fortune before plunging for modest middle-class happiness. Director Carol Reed seems a touch ill-at-ease, but the novel's human comedy carries the day. Thursday brings Korda's 1936 production *The Man Who Could Work Miracles*, based on Wells's story about another

draper's assistant (he was one himself in his youth) given the power to change the world. The amusing special effects and adorable cast (Roland Young, Ralph Richardson, Ernest Thesiger) make it easy to forgive the odd lumbering moment. Later treats include Laurence Olivier's Orlando leaping through a studio-bound Arden in the 1937 *As You Like It*; the archaic charm of *Comin' Thru' the Rye*, made in 1923 by the pioneering Cecil Hepworth; and Richard Tauber putting on the motley in *Pagliacci*. Tuesday and Thursday until December 14, 6.10pm, £1.50. London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3699).

Geoff Brown

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL:** Tricycle Theatre rises from its ashes and re-opens for Caryl Phillips's play with music about the life of Phillis Wheatley. Tricycle Theatre, 299 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (01-328 1000). Tube: Kilburn. Previews tonight and tomorrow. Opens Thursday 7pm, then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, £4.50-£8.

★ **ANOTHER TIME:** Albert Finney, Janet Suzman, Sara Kestelman in new Ronald Harwood play set in South Africa and London and showing the effect of success on a gifted young pianist. Lyric Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-867 1116). Tube: Leicester Square. Previews from tonight, 8pm. Opens Sat 8pm, then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, £25-£16.

★ **BOYS MEAN BUSINESS:** New comedy, set on the Western seafloor, where two brothers thrash around on the edges of the enterprise culture. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3398). Tube: Shepherd's Bush. Tues-Sun 8pm, £4-£5.

★ **KISSING THE POPE:** Sandilands meets Corina in Nick Darke's new musical play. Ambassadors Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (01-359 4404). Tube: Highbury & Islington. Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs 7pm, then in rep, £8.50-£10.

★ **MISS SAIGON:** New musical by the Les Mis composing team: love in Vietnam, starring Jonathan Pryce. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (01-810 8100). Tube: Covent Garden. Preview tonight, 7.45-10.30pm, opens tomorrow, 7.45-10.30pm, then Mon-Sat 7.45-10.30pm, mat Wed and Sat 3.45-6.45pm. Thurs £15-£14.50, from tomorrow, £22-£25.

★ **RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET:** Sci-fi comic version of *The Tempest* with 1950's rock 'n' roll: anti-angel "Who's Sorry Now?" Caribbe Theatre, Seven Dials, WC2 (01-379 2289). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8-10.20pm, Sat 8.30-11pm, mat Thurs 5-7.30pm, Sat 5.30-8pm, £7.50-£15.50.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*: Ambassadors Theatre (01-359 4404). ★ *My Darling Clementine*: Gielgud Theatre (01-240 7613). ★ *Les Misérables*: Palace Theatre (01-434 0805). ★ *The Mousetrap*: The Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ *Phantom of the Opera*: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2241). ★ *Ran For Your Wife*: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1119). ★ *Starlight Express*: Apollo Victoria (01-828 87667).

OUT OF TOWN

DERBY: ★ *Heartbreak House*: Shared Experience's strongly cast production by Nancy Maclean anticipates the allegory in Shaw's *Great War* play. Playhouse, Eagle Centre (0332 353273). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, £4.50-£8.50-£7.50.

FILMS

★ Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible

★ **BATMAN (PG)**: Tim Burton's action film starring Michael Keaton as the hero, Kim Cattrall as his sidekick, Vicki Vale, and Jack Nicholson as the deadly Joker (126 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00. ★ *Caravan*: Cannon Baker Street (01-373 8990). Progs 1.45, 5.15, 8.05. ★ *Cannon Shakespeare Avenue* (01-356 5561). Progs 1.55, 4.55, 8.00. ★ *Cannon Haymarket* (01-839 1527). Progs 2.00, 5.15, 8.20. ★ *Cannon Oxford Street* (01-836 0310). Progs 1.45, 4.55, 8.05. ★ *Gate* (01-727 4030). Progs 10.15, 12.50, 3.25, 6.05, 8.45. ★ *Screen on the Green* (01-226 3520). Progs 3.00, 5.55, 8.55. ★ *Warner West End* (01-438 0791). Progs 12.40, 3.25, 6.10, 8.55, 11.45.

★ **DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS (PG)**: Funny re-make of the 1948 *Scoundrels* film. Story with Steve Martin and Michael Caine as two competing con-men on the French Riviera. Directed by Frank Oz (110 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 6.55, 9.25. ★ *Cannon Haymarket* (01-839 1527). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 5.55, 8.25. ★ *Odeon Kensington* (01-802 5644/5). Progs 12.55, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40. ★ *Odeon St James's* (01-722 5905). Progs 8.00, 8.30.

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

- (1) Ride on Time Black Box, Deconstruction
- (2) Right Here Waiting Richard Marx, EM USA
- (3) Cherish Madonna, Sire
- (4) Pump Up the Jam Technobionic Feet Felly, Swerve
- (5) The Best Tina Turner, Capitol
- (6) If Only I Could Sydney Youngblood, Circa
- (7) The Time Warp Jason Donovan, PWL
- (8) Every Breath You Take Bryan Ferry, Arista
- (9) Sowing the Seeds of Love Tears for Fears, Jive
- (10) I Need Your Lovin' Alison Williams, Def Jam/CBS

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

- (1) We Too Are One Eurythmics, RCA
- (2) Steel Wheels Rolling Stones, RCA
- (3) Pump Up the Jam Technobionic Feet Felly, Swerve
- (4) The Best Tina Turner, Capitol
- (5) Cuts Both Ways Gloria Estefan, Epic
- (6) Ten Good Reasons Jason Donovan, PWL
- (7) Sleeping With the Past Elton John, Rocket
- (8) Aspects of Love Original Cast, Really Useful
- (9) A New Flame Simply Red, EMI
- (10) Adeva! Adava, Columbia

Compiled by Gallup for Music Week/BBC/EMI

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1978

ACROSS

- 1 Chronologically inseparable (6,5)
- 9 Ship (7)
- 10 Large milk can (5)
- 11 Tibetan cattle (3)
- 13 Arcane group (4)
- 16 Sagacious (4)
- 17 Charm (6)
- 18 Inferior (4)
- 20 Pull up at bar (4)
- 21 Immediately (6)
- 22 Happy (4)
- 23 Galvanising element (4)
- 25 Light fast fire weapon (1,1,1)
- 28 Light twist (5)
- 29 Ismaili leader (3,4)
- 30 And (11)

DOWN

- 2 Strangely (5)
- 3 Draught cattle (4)
- 4 Promising (4)
- 5 Fortune (4)
- 6 Feed (7)
- 7 Individual enditements (5,6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1977

ACROSS: 1 Tag along 5 Fan 9 Relics 10 Worldly minded 13 Lory 15 Dryly 17 Old age pension 21 Nerve 22 Indium 23 Rude 24 Lengthen

DOWN: 1 Throe 2 Gular 3 Lucidity 4 Nasty surprise 6 Laundry 7 Noisily 8 Pail 12 Opt 13 Spousal 14 Ordered 15 Dancing 16 Loo 18 Goo 19 Irish 20 Numan

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

EBAUCHÉ
A sketch, a first draft or attempt in painting and sculpture, from the French for a sketch. J. S. Mill: "Its deficiencies are as readily the case with its sketches, as are chiefly in the introductory part."

SPROD
(a) A salmon in its second year, of obscure origin: "I am a little jealous that my spods are but spods."
(b) A salmon in its second year, of obscure origin: "I am a little jealous that my spods are but spods."

JENIMA
(c) Elasticated boots, the British name for Congress boots, from the name of the sort of suburban woman who might be supposed to wear them: "I spoke of Mr Chamberlain's having fallen from sartorial grace to the extent of wearing Jenima."

FUZZY NAVE
(d) A cocktail made from the peach schnapps and orange juice: "Every age gets the drinks it deserves. It's quite possible that our own time will be remembered for the peach schnapps and orange juice concoction known as the Fuzzy Nave."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The above position is from the game Vidmar (White) against Euwe (Black) played in Carlsbad 1929. White plays and wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: Black wins with 1...Ra1+ since if 2 Bxa1 Qa4 3 Qb8+ Kd7 4 Qb3 (the best chance) 4...Oxa1+ 5 Qb1 Rxc2+ 6 Qxc2 Qc3 checkmate.

PAUL SCOFIELD

ALEC MCCOWEN

EILEEN ATKINS

EXCLUSIVE

A NEW FILM BY

JEFFREY ARCHER

MICHAEL RUDMAN

PREVIEWS FROM

SEPT 7

OPENS SEPT 19

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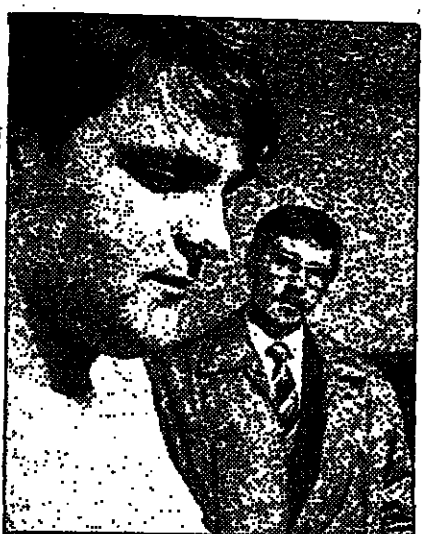
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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Stephanie BillenHigh-risk
case goes
home

Peter Waymark

Keith Robinson is an immature and angry loner, with fantasies about killing young girls, who is convicted of the attempted murder of a policeman. After five years in a secure hospital he is released, finds a job and moves to Bradford. But he remains a high-risk case and the Home Office decision to allow him back into society involves the delicate balance of individual freedom and public safety. In the drama documentary *Danger in Mind* (ITV, 10.35pm) Keith is a fictional character played by an actor, Christopher Walker. The policeman, the probation officers and the psychiatrist who have to supervise Keith's attempt to reintegrate into society are real people. Thanks to Walker's convincingly naturalistic



Christopher Walker (left) as Robinson interviewed by police (ITV, 10.35pm)

performance and equally cogent contributions from the professionals, notably a sympathetic and persevering probation officer Elsie Nicholson, the formula works splendidly. Directed by David Perrin and Richard Broad, *Danger in Mind* is given extra edge by being improvised rather than scripted. The result is fly-on-the-wall television at its most effective. To test Keith's reactions to crisis, Perrin and Broad put him through the hoop of losing his job, having his girlfriend cancel a date and making him a prime suspect in a rape case. The initial emphasis on Keith being a potential danger to society shifts towards society's attempts to do its best for him. The amount and the quality of the help available to him is impressive, and puts our much criticized social services in an unusually favourable light.

James Cagney fans will remember *Angels with Dirty Faces*, in which he and Pat O'Brien played two poor kids who grow up to become, respectively, a villain and a priest. A similar idea is used by Murray Smith, writer of *The Paradise Club* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Don Henderson wears the dog collar and Leslie Grantham is the gangster brother running a criminal empire from a south London dance hall. Other ingredients are a rival gang, who would like to see Grantham wrapped in a wooden overcoat, and a smart woman detective trying to put him behind bars. The glamorous cop (briskly played by Kitty Aldridge) promises to inject a touch of novelty into what otherwise looks like a formula series, which is not helped by muddy photography and raucous music.

BBC 1

- 6.05 *The Flintstones in The Happy House* (r)
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Kirsty Wark. Includes business news, sport, weather, travel, arts, regional news slots and a review of the day's national newspapers.
8.55 *Regional news and weather* followed by *Better Badminton*. Lesson two in the five-part coaching course from Jake Downey (r) 9.30 *The French Way*. A repeat series on France and the French.
10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Four Square* (r)
10.25 *Children's BBC* begins with *Playbus* (r) 10.50 *Barney* (r) 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Mark Kingston with a reading.
11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Madhur Jaffrey's Far Eastern Cookery*. Japanese cuisine (r). (Ceefax) 11.35 *First Impressions*. A series of short sketches starring Brad Garrett as Frank Dutton, a recently divorced father trying to run a business.
12.00 *News and weather* followed by *The High Chaparral*. Western adventures (r) 12.55 *Regional news and weather*
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Brown. Weather (r)
1.30 *Neighbours*. Charlene receives a letter that could jeopardize her marriage; and Des incurs Mrs. Mangel's wrath by putting Jane in a dangerous position. (Ceefax)
1.50 *Four Square*. John Sachs with another round of the quiz game.
2.15 *Flint: Smokey and the Good Time Crew* (1978) starring Jesse Turner and Dennis Fimple. The light-hearted tale of two young men working on a ranch who dream of fame and fortune in the music world. When they are fired they head for Nashville to try their luck. On their way they meet a dancer and her manager who happen to be on the run from the local sheriff. Directed by Alex Grasshoff.
3.40 *Cartoon 3.40* (r) 4.05 *Laurel and Hardy*. Cartoon version (r) 4.10 *Heathcliff with Cats and Co.* Cartoon adventures of an alley cat 4.35 *Wildside*. Environmental series. This week - which deserves the more protection, racing pigeons or the wild peregrines that attack them? And, is it safe to breathe in London? (Ceefax)
5.00 *Newsnight*. 5.05 *Children's serial* (r). (Ceefax)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax)
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Jill Dando. Weather.
6.30 *Tomorrow's World*. A new series begins with Howard Stabileford in St. Tropez reporting on a new wind boat design that could transform the yachting scene; and Judith Harris is at the Midland Eye Hospital in Birmingham investigating research into migraine.
7.30 *EastEnders*. Arthur annoys Pauline; Kathy makes a new acquaintance; and Ethel has another nasty shock. (Ceefax)
8.00 *Dad's Army*. No Spring for Frazer. In this week's episode of the vintage comedy, Private Frazer loses a vital part and incurs the wrath of Captain Mainwaring. Starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and John Laurie (r)
8.30 *The Vet*. Part three of the seven-part documentary series about a year in the life of the Highland vet, George Rafferty. Neutering a cat and teaching crofters on the Western Isles about sheep fertility are among this week's tasks. (Ceefax)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather.
9.30 *The Paradise Club*. (Ceefax) (see Choice)
10.20 *Film 89* presented by Barry Norman. Grand tour of the films reviewed are *Dead Poets Society* and *Major League*.
10.50 *The Ryder Cup*. They're Playing It Again Sam! Peter Alliss introduces highlights from more than 60 years of Ryder Cup action.
11.35 *Spenser*. For Hire. American private detective series starring Robert Ulrich. Tonight, a high-speed car chase which ends with the arrest of two kidnappers brings Spenser to the attention of the media - and the target of thrill-seeking college students.
12.25am *Weather*

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News and The Morning Programme* introduced by Linda Mitchell. 6.30 *News*. 7.00 *News* followed by *Good Morning Britain* presented by Mike Morris and Richard Keys. 8.30 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1989

25

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5660 (+0.0260)
W German mark
3.0694 (-0.0114)
Exchange index
91.3 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1958.9 (+9.2)
FT-SE 100
2373.8 (+7.3)
USM (Datastream)
170.84 (-0.44)

Macmillan
in \$260m
US buy

Macmillan, the New York
publisher acquired by Mr
Robert Maxwell, for \$2.5
billion (£1.64 billion) last
year, has bought Merrill
Publishing, the Ohio school
textbook division of Bell &
Howell, for \$260 million
cash.

Inchcape rises

Inchcape, the overseas
trading group, has increased
pre-tax profits by 26 per cent
to \$86.8 million. Singapore
and Thailand are performing
well, but activity in Hong
Kong is down says chairman
Mr George Turnbull.

Steelley up

Continuing strong demand
for building materials helped
Steelley to a 40 per cent rise in
pre-tax profits to \$51 million
for the half-year to end-June.
The interim dividend rises 19
per cent to 4.75p.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	
Dow Jones	2876.48 (+1.90)
Nikkei	14,442.54 (+70.68)
Hong Kong	2648.21 (+35.38)
Amsterdam	198.2 (+0.7)
Frankfurt	1782.1 (+3.2)
London	1958.9 (+9.2)
Paris	1232.38 (+1.15)
FT 100	2373.8 (+7.3)
FT 30	1958.9 (+9.2)
FT 1000	204.1 (-3.0)
FT 10000	96.20 (-0.44)
FT 100000	85.88 (same)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:	
Moss Bros	236 1/2p (+8p)
Auto Security	236 1/2p (+30 1/2p)
Beane End	225 1/2p (+14 1/2p)
Beane End	241 1/2p (+13 1/2p)
Lon & Manchester	230 1/2p (+12 1/2p)
Builder Group	230 1/2p (+14 1/2p)
Haynes Publishing	230 1/2p (+15 1/2p)
Boosey & Hawes	450p (+10p)
Radiant Metal	242 1/2p (+30 1/2p)
Geotester	284 1/2p (+12 1/2p)
Hawker Siddeley	745 1/2p (+10 1/2p)
Edwards	457 1/2p (+10 1/2p)
Assoc Brit Ports	585 1/2p (+19 1/2p)
FALLS:	
Antofagasta	545p (-20p)
Eurotunnel Units	220p (-15p)
Shell	447 1/2p (-4 1/2p)
Wardle Stores	305 1/2p (-3 1/2p)
BPS	247p (-5p)
Travis Perkins	205p (-7p)
Clive Holdings	225p (-7p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	2148
SEAG Volume	315.3m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	13 1/2%-13 3/4%
3-month eligible bills	13 1/2%-13 3/4%
Borrowing rate	14%
US Prime Rate	10 1/4%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury bill	7.80-7.59%
30-year bonds	10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$1.5660	£/\$1.5660
£/DM 0.6924	£/DM 0.6924
£/Sfr 2.6497	£/Sfr 2.6497
£/FF 10.3557	£/FF 10.3557
£/Yen 228.32	£/Yen 228.32
£/Escudo 201.8	£/Escudo 201.8
£/Lira 201.8	£/Lira 201.8
£/Pound 201.8	£/Pound 201.8

GOLD

London Fixing	
AM \$350.10-350.70	
Close \$351.00-351.50	
231.00	
New York	
Comex \$351.20-351.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) ... \$18.05 bbl (\$17.80)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	Bank	2.10
Belgium Fr	Bank	21.26
Canada C	Bank	71.25
Denmark Kr	Bank	1.33
Finland Mark	Bank	12.34
France Fr	Bank	11.74
Germany DM	Bank	7.28
Greece Dr	Bank	16.15
Hong Kong \$	Bank	3.15
Italy Lira	Bank	3.015
Japan Yen	Bank	274.75
Netherlands Gld	Bank	2.28
Norway Kr	Bank	11.88
Portugal Esc	Bank	1.24
South Africa Rd	Bank	230.00
Spain Ptas	Bank	200.00
Sweden Kr	Bank	24.50
Switzerland Fr	Bank	2.28
Turkey Lira	Bank	2.28
USA \$	Bank	1.05
Yugoslavia Dnr	Bank	5800.0

Rates for small denomination bank
notes only as supplied by Barclays
Bank PLC. Different rates apply to
traveler's cheques.
Retail Price Index: 115.8 (August)

Turnover objections stall EC merger proposals

From Michael Binyon
Brussels



Redwood: urgent questions

European industry ministers have
failed to agree compromise thresh-
old figures for a European Commu-
nity policy on mergers, mainly
because of strong opposition from
Italy and several small EC members
to any raising of the total turnover
that would trigger intervention by
Brussels.

In a setback to the tortuous
negotiations to decide at what level
the EC should automatically look at
cross-border mergers and takeovers,
Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands,
Luxembourg, Portugal and Den-
mark refused to accept the Ecu 5

billion (£3.4 billion) threshold
agreed by Britain, West Germany
and France.

The smaller countries do not have
national monopolies commissions,
and so want Brussels to monitor
mergers between companies whose
joint turnover amounts to only Ecu
1 billion, as originally proposed by
the European Commission.

At the same time, Britain insisted
that the Ecu 5 billion threshold
should not be automatically lowered
to Ecu 2 billion in four years, as
currently proposed. Mr John Red-
wood, Parliamentary Under-Sec-
retary at the Department of Trade
and Industry, said Britain wanted

the Ecu 5 billion indexed to gross
national product in the EC.

Germany also disliked the French
presidency's compromise, which
would have left only mergers below
the threshold liable to inspection by
national monopolies commissions.
The Germans want to retain a
residual right to monitor larger
mergers, even after they have been
vetted by Brussels.

The French presidency was yes-
terday trying to bring all sides
together. Under its proposals, com-
panies would be referred to Brussels
automatically if their global turn-
over was Ecu 5 billion and if a
minimum amount of business

within the EC totalled Ecu 250
million.

If, however, the merger left the
companies doing 66 per cent or
more of their business in one
member state, then the merger
would instead be referred to that
country's monopolies body. Orig-
inally the Commission had pro-
posed not intervening only if 75 per
cent of business was in one country.

Britain also formally registered
objections to the French decision to
raise the issue of reciprocity in
looking at mergers with third coun-
try companies - principally the US
and Japan. Mr Redwood called on
the Commission to remove existing

non-tariff barriers to takeovers
within the EC. The failure to agree
the threshold figures means that a
mergers policy may not now be
possible by November, as the
French had hoped.

Mr Redwood also raised as a
matter of urgency the question of
implementation of EC directives,
warning others that their failure to
put into national law directives on
the single market jeopardized
progress towards the market's
completion by 1992. He said Britain
had the best record in the Commu-
nity, having implemented all but
one of the 68 directives so far
passed.

Retailers seek
tougher action
on card rules

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

Britain's retailers claim
credit card companies
cost them more than £300
million a year through
anti-competitive abuses.

The Retail Consortium,
which represents 95 per cent
of shops, is calling on Mr
Nicholas Ridley, the Trade
Secretary, to go further than
the recommendations of the
recent Monopolies Commis-
sion investigation into the use
of plastic money.

The commission, which
found widespread evidence of
monopolistic practices by the
card companies, leading to
inflated profits, recommended
that shopkeepers be allowed to
charge different prices for cash
and card customers.

The retailers accept the pro-
posal - still to be agreed by Mr
Ridley - but they also want to
scrap agreements forcing them
to accept debit cards, which
replace cheques, but cost more
to process.

They also want Mr Ridley
to abolish a fixed fee charged
by banks for sorting out the
credit card paperwork with the
card issuers.

The so-called interchange
fee, levied by the card com-
panies and passed on to the
shops by their banks, accounts
for about 1 per cent of any sale
using a card.

Mr Bob Woodman, chair-
man of the consortium's pay-
ment systems policy com-
mittee, said the commission
report overlooked this fee. Mr
Richard Weir, director general

of the Retail Consortium,
said: "We want to see this
charge at the very minimum
to retain the integrity of the
clearing house, not a way of
making higher charges than
would be charged in an open
market."

A spokesman for Barclays
Bank said the charge allowed
small institutions to issue
cards because they would be
assured of a stream of income
from the use of their cards. "It
is not a cozy agreement be-
tween the banks who process
the transactions for retailers
and the card issuers," he said.

The consortium lays most
of the blame for the £300
million it is losing on rule that
says they must honour all
cards. When a retailer accepts
one type of card - for exam-
ple, a Visa credit card - it also
has to accept other types of
Visa cards such as Barclays'
Connect debit card.

The issue of this card in
June 1987 caused a revolt
among retailers who did not
want to accept it. They capitu-
lated when their Visa agree-
ment was threatened.

A Barclays spokesman said:
"The rule is in place to benefit
the customers. They know
that anywhere in the world
any one of the 6.5 million Visa
outlets will accept a Visa
payment card."

But the Retail Consortium
said forcing retailers to accept
the debit card in tandem with
the credit card means having
to pay more for it. For
instance, if a customer spends

£25 in a shop and pays by
credit card, this will cost the
retailer about 50p. If he pays
by debit card this will cost 15p
to process whereas a cheque
costs 10p to process and a cash
transaction 1p or 2p.

The retailers believe that if
they were allowed to negotiate
a separate agreement for the
debit card, the cost of process-
ing could be lower.

Mr Weir said: "It is classic
monopoly practice to insist
that all cards are accepted
when some provide a totally
different service."

The consortium has written
to Sir Gordon Borrie, the
Director General of Fair Tradi-
ng, saying the restrictions are
reducing competition.

The National Consumer
Council supports the retailers'
views on the interchange fee,
and is scathing about the
"honour all cards" rule.

The consortium has also
written to MPs who are mem-
bers of the Parliamentary All
Party Group for the Retail
Trade, asking them to suggest
ways of combating abuses in
the credit card industry which
inhibit price competition.

"The MMC concluded,"
said the letter, "that there were
monopolies at work operating
against the public interest, and
identified a number of anti-
competitive practices. How-
ever, they failed to make
recommendations on most of
the restrictive agreements
arguing that increased com-
petition would remove the
abuser."

UA unions 'to have
veto' after buyout

From James Bone, New York

The unions at United Airlines
will have veto power over all
strategic decisions if the pro-
posed employee-management
buyout involving British Air-
ways is successful, according
to the leader of the pilots' union.

Mr Frederick Dubinsky, of
the Air Line Pilots Associa-
tion at UA, said in an
interview with the New York
Times that a simple majority
of the proposed 15 member
board would not be enough to
approve big changes in the
company's direction.

Such decisions would also
require the consent of at least
two of the three employee
representatives on the board,
he said. Where the employee-

nominated directors disagreed
with the whole board, the
dispute would be submitted to
shareholders, where the em-
ployees' view would almost
certainly win out because of
the structure of the new
company, which will become
the largest employee-owned
enterprise in the United States.

Under the proposed \$6.8
billion (£4.38 billion) buyout
of UAL Corporation, UA's
parent 75 per cent of the
shares will be held by an
employee stock ownership
plan.

BA will have a 15 per cent
stake with one seat on the
board. Management will have
10 per cent and three seats.

Budget surplus of
£14bn on course

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The Government appears to
be still on course for a sizeable
budget surplus this year in the
region of £14 billion.

The public sector borrowing
requirement last month was
£745 million, against a repay-
ment in August last year of
£1.58 billion when large
privatization proceeds were
netted off public spending.

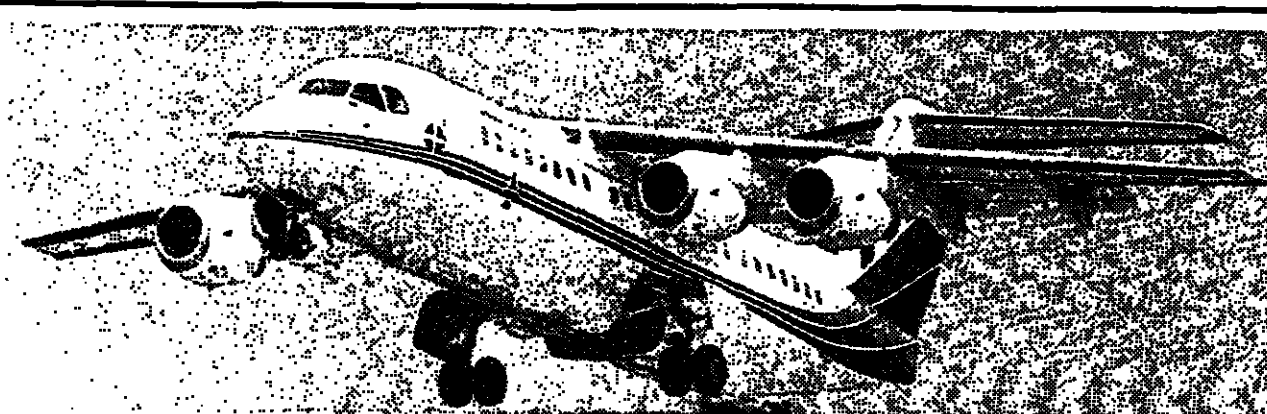
In the first five months of
the financial year there was a
net repayment of £698 million
compared with a surplus of
£4.8 billion over the same
period last year.

Excluding privatization
proceeds there was a borrow-
ing requirement of £1.1 billion
this year compared with £0.2
billion. The main factor affect-

ing the underlying expendi-
ture and revenue totals this
year has been the bigger-than-
expected take-up of personal
pensions.

Consolidated Fund revenue
during the first five months of
the year was 5 1/2 per cent
above the same level a year
earlier compared with 7 per
cent during the first four
months. Expenditure on the
same basis was 4 1/2 per cent
higher compared with 5 per
cent in the first four months.

● The dollar had a much
quieter day after its gyrations
on Friday. The pound streng-
thened by 2.6 cents against the
dollar to \$1.5660. The effec-
tive rate index rose 0.2 to
91.3. Comment, page 27



A BAE146 during a test flight from London City airport. Mowlem wants to bring in the 'quiet' jet to cut the airport's losses

Mowlem renews
bid to bring in
BAE146 'quiet' jet

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

John Mowlem, the construc-
tion and scaffolding group, in
a new attempt to bring its loss-
making London City airport
into profit, will today make a
planning application to the
London Docklands Develop-
ment Corporation to use the
BAE 146 "quiet" jet.

The number of passengers
using the airport rose 50 per
cent in the summer quarter
but is still running at only
250,000 a year, half that
needed to break even.

A sharp downturn in the
housing business as well as the
continuing airport losses peg-
ged Mowlem back to a 7 per
cent rise in pre-tax profits to
£22.5 million in the half year
to end June on turnover up 37
per cent to £620 million.

The interim dividend has
been raised from 5.25p to
5.65p per share out of earnings
up 4.5 per cent to 16.4p. The
shares shed 6p to 416p.

Aviation trading losses were
£2.1 million against £2.7 mil-
lion in the first half of 1988
when flights from the airport
were temporarily suspended.
But interest charges attrib-
utable to the £36 million
investment increased from £1
million to £1.3 million.

Mowlem wants to bring in

the BAE 146 because it has
double the speed, capacity and
range of the Dash 7, which is
the only aircraft approved for
use at the airport but is now
out of production. Mowlem is
also asking for use of Dash 7
turboprop replacements as
well as a 169-metre extension
to the runway to use the jet
and an extension in operating
hours from 10pm to 11 pm.

It has asked for the limit on
aircraft movements to be
raised from 30,000 to 36,000.

If the plan is eventually
approved after a likely appeal,
Mowlem hopes to attract fur-
ther airlines and extend its
route network throughout the
European Community. It is
now confined to Brussels,
Amsterdam and Paris, but
Rotterdam and two other
destinations could follow
shortly.

Sir Philip Beck, the chair-
man, said the group's main
construction and building
business achieved significant
profit rises on good turnover
growth. Work in hand tops
£1.2 billion, compared with
£770 million a year ago.

The scaffolding and equip-
ment hire businesses also did
well but trade related to
housing weakened.

Sir Philip Beck: construction profits up significantly

"Why did I talk to
John Charcol about a
fixed-rate mortgage?
For the 11.9%
interest. And the 0%
uncertainty."

12.6%
Typical APR

Right now, the attractions of fixed-rate
mortgages (or remortgages) are un-
deniable. In a nutshell, lower interest
and an end to uncertainty.

You don't need to talk to an adviser at John Charcol to
appreciate that. What we can do, though, is to help you choose the
fixed-rate mortgage that suits you best.

If you think that interest rates might fall next year, you will be
very interested in a mortgage fixed at an extremely low 11.9%
(12.6% APR) until March 1990.

You'll be even more interested to discover what happens then.
You can switch into a competitive variable rate - and, either imme-
diately or at any time in the future, into a further fixed rate.

Alternatively, we can offer a wide variety of other fixed-rate
mortgages, over one, two, three or even as many as twenty-five years.
All of which can save you money in the short term - and give
you both stability and flexibility in the longer term.

To find out more, call John Charcol, a licensed
credit broker, on (01) 589 7080. Or write to us at
Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE.

JOHN CHARCOL

Talk about a better mortgage.

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Branded pet foods and pot noodles the recipe for final £110m

Dumb chums help Dalgety to win a lot

by Colin Campbell



Warren: generally pleased

Dalgety, the pot noodles to pet
foods group, has firmly
proved that our four-legged
friends do actually turn their
noses up at tins they do not
recognize.

Dalgety's Winalot, Kat-
tomat and Bonio pet foods
managed to generate enough
"woofs" and "meows" in
British homes in the year
ended June 30 for its Spillers
pet foods division to send the
own-brand labels market
scrampering away with its tail
between its legs. Dalgety won
another 1.6 percentage points
of the branded canned petfood
market, and now holds second
market place with a near-19
per cent share, which gener-
ated £200 million of turn-
over. Dalgety also made
headway at the high tables at
which humans eat, even

though the British public
turned up its nose at eggs last
year because of salmonella
fears. The egg problem, which
Dalgety feels is being resolved,
meant a £3 million charge
against profits.

It was also a tough year in
the pig market, and for coffee
and cocoa, though sugar
stayed sweet. However, Gull
& Duffus, Dalgety's commodi-
ty arm, saw its pre-tax profits
dip by 27 per cent to £10
million, and its future is now
clearly under review.

Dalgety produced an awful
lot of pot noodle last year - 90
million pots of it, or 300,000 a
day, with an overall value of
£55 million. Dalgety now
claims 99 per cent of the pot
noodle market, and research
shows that 35 per cent of its
noodles are eaten at work,

while 60 per cent are eaten by
women of all ages.

Against a difficult back-
ground for its markets,
Dalgety was generally pleased
with a pre-tax profit of £110.4
million against £99.6 million,
on a turnover up from £4.5
billion to £4.76 billion.

There was an extraordinary
£7.1 million charge below the
line following the collapse of
an Australian financial asso-
ciate, but the stock market was
pleased with results and raised
the shares by 4p to 407p,
helped by a final dividend of
10p (payable January 2) to
make 16.5p (15p) for the year.

Mr Maurice Warren, group
managing director, is now in
charge at Dalgety following
the departure in July of chief
executive Mr Terry Pryce.

Tempus, page 26

TEMPUS

Steetley builds beyond recession

Tales of mounting brick and tile stocks have done their best to depress share prices in the building materials sector. So it is refreshing to read Steetley's upbeat trading statement and realize there is life after a housebuilding recession.

First-half pre-tax profits at Steetley, where Mr Richard Miles is managing director, of £51 million — up 40 per cent — were just above City forecasts, while sales were £322 million, 29 per cent ahead. Eps growth of a fifth to 21.7p showed the company is spending wisely the £68 million it raised from a rights issue in July 1988. A dividend increase of 19 per cent to 4.75p should please shareholders who backed that cash call.

The wisdom of Steetley's five-year European expansion is now becoming clear. Operating profits from France surged to £7.20 million, up 28 per cent, while profits of £10.4 million from all of continental Europe is now almost a fifth of the group's total.

Since 1984, Steetley's overseas profits have grown from 18 per cent to 31 per cent of the total, carrying the group away from the cyclical nature of the British building industry. The full-year split will look even more impressive after the £40 million acquisition of the Callet Group in Avignon in the South of France this summer, with more overseas purchases promised.

The concern is at home with Steetley's brick manufacturing, which still accounts for a quarter of the group's profits. True, the company has read the market well, stocking up at the start of 1988 to supply the boom, and destocking this year. But national brick deliveries this year could fall by 12 per cent.

Steetley's earnings growth could be heading for a slowdown, unless there is an unexpected upturn next year. For now a forecast of £106 million this year leaves the shares at 410p of a p/e ratio of nine. They may mark time until the industry's outlook is clearer.

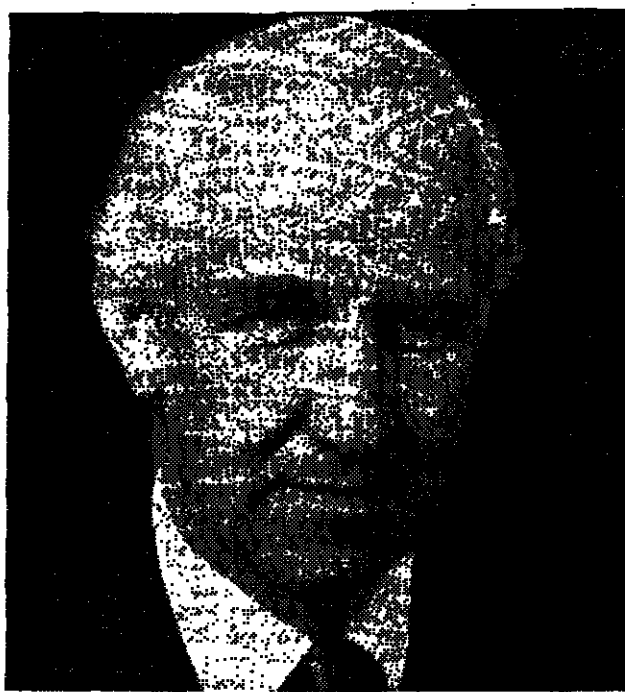
Dalgety

Dalgety could be closer to the sale of its Gill & Duffus commodity arm than it cares to admit.

The formal line from a management team now led by Mr Maurice Warren is that all parts of the Dalgety group are under review with the sole objective of ensuring that net earnings, and consequently dividends, tick.

But the informal line must be that if a buyer were to come along for an asset which sits in the books at around £95 million, then G&D would be shed without too many tears.

Pre-tax profits of G&D slipped in the year ended June



Benefiting from European growth: Richard Miles of Steetley

30 by 27 per cent to £10 million. With the current uncertainty over coffee prices still causing headaches and with cocoa markets far from calm, nobody can be sure what damage G&D might do to its parent this year.

Against a generally difficult background for eggs, pigs and harvests, Dalgety came through an otherwise tough

but the basic food and agri-business divisions both performed well at the trading level.

Dalgety says it is "comfortable" with a gearing of 63 per cent (68 per cent) — which eases to 54 per cent if G&D is stripped out — and the management team is out looking for new growth opportunities.

Given fair trading conditions, pre-tax profits could reach £123 million this year, to put the shares at 407p on a rating of 11.2. About the only reason for staying with Dalgety is the potential excitement which could develop over Mr Robert Holmes a Court's 5.2 per cent stake in the group.

Inchcape

The problem for Mr George Turnbull, Inchcape's chairman, is that he has already completed most of the group's restructuring. Having kicked life into one of the most notorious sleeping giants, pre-tax profits have risen from £46.2 million in 1985 to £147.7 million last year, with the group on target for £173 million this year.

Earnings per share have soared from 5.1p per share in 1985 to 24.1p last year, with the group yesterday reporting interim earnings of 13.7p a share. By concentrating on 10 core businesses Mr Turnbull

has cut out a lot of dead wood and erratic swings in earnings.

There are some closures still to come but most of the benefits have worked their way through. Future earnings growth will have to be organic or through acquisition.

The surge in profits and corresponding rise in dividends, now more than double the 1985 level, have been helped by generally favourable world markets. But is Inchcape recession-proof? More than half the group's profits depend on the world motor trade, and while Mr Turnbull sees the market expanding for at least 10 years it is very competitive and vulnerable to high interest rates. The shares are a hold rather than a buy. James Finlay is a far better investment in overseas traders.

Finlay's Glasgow-based directors are about to do in Scotland what Mr Turnbull has done so successfully at Inchcape — and profits and share price should rise accordingly.

As an added bonus, Finlay is about to reap the benefits of the Indian government's attempt to sell more of its tea on the domestic market rather than shipping it overseas. Its move to limit all alternative tea auctions to Indians only means tea prices should rise, and every 5 per cent on the price adds a further £1.8 million to Finlay's pre-tax profits.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hoylake acceptances for BAT below 0.1%

Hoylake Investments, the takeover vehicle led by Sir James Goldsmith with Mr Jacob Rothschild and Mr Kerry Packer, received acceptances from only 0.05 per cent of shares in BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services conglomerate for which it has bid £13 billion, by its provisional closing date of last Friday. Hoylake also owns nearly 2.3 per cent of BAT shares as well as controlling small non-beneficial holdings.

The offer has been extended until September 29. This was expected, after BAT, headed by Mr Patrick Sheehy, appealed against a ruling by the full Takeover Panel on Friday that Hoylake Investments should be allowed to lapse its bid but return with a new offer if it succeeded in clearing legal hurdles in the United States.

Guidehouse venture

Guidehouse Securities, part of the Guidehouse finance and consultancy group, is to launch a new quoted development capital company, with an initial £9.7 million in funds. It is placing shares in Greyfriars Investment to raise £6.7 million and a further £3 million is being raised in low-coupon loans. Greyfriars aims to provide a relatively high dividend.

BHH Group leaps to £5.9m

BHH Group, the asset-based property development and investment company, raised pre-tax profits 119 per cent in the six months to end-June from £2.71 million to £5.91 million, on turnover up from £22.41 million to £33.67 million. The interim dividend rises 60 per cent to 2p (1.25p). Earnings per share were up 82 per cent from 5p to 9.08p.

Ernest Green at £3m

Ernest Green and Partners, the consulting, civil and construction engineers based on the USM three years ago, is expanding its industrial and commercial activities to make up for the downturn in housebuilding. Pre-tax profits for the year to June rose 40 per cent to £3 million on turnover up 55 per cent to £12.7 million. Earnings per share increased 36 per cent to 25p and the dividend for the year is 6.25p, up from 4.75p.

Mr David Legg, chairman, said: "Despite the decline in housebuilding and its effect on the order book we are confident of increasing market share. The decline has been more than offset by growth in the industrial and commercial sectors." Shares in the group rose 5p to 253p.

Ex-Lands in the red

Ex-Lands, the former investment holding company now involved in the leisure sector, made a £40,000 pre-tax loss for the interim period to end-June. The loss per share is 0.35p. Turnover stands at £123,000. These are the first results of the group with its new accounting reference date of June 30. A dividend will be paid in respect of the year to end-June 1990.

Mucklow up to final £9m

A&J Mucklow, the industrial and commercial property company, lifted pre-tax profits for the year ending June from £7.53 million to £9.07 million. The final dividend is 5.2p, making 8.91p (7.425p). Turnover rose from £4.95 million to £5.53 million. Earnings rise from 10.91p to 12.98p. The board proposes a one-for-one scrip issue.

Bourne End doubles

Bourne End Properties, the property and investment group formerly known as Jacksons Bourne End, appears to be thriving under the ownership of Mr Berish Berger and Mr Leo Noe, who bought a 60 per cent stake in the group from Mr James Gulliver earlier this year. Pre-tax profits for the half-year to June have more than doubled to £347,000, with turnover down fractionally to £1.77 million.

Earnings per share rise from 1.26p to 3.5p, and the interim dividend is 1p, up from 0.75p. There is an extraordinary credit of £1.17 million compared to a loss of £105,000 last year. Shares jumped 7p to 219p on the news.

No cash offer in A Goldberg bid

By Gillian Bowditch

Blacks Leisure, the sports retailer offering £30 million for the fashion retailer A Goldberg & Sons, has said there will be no cash alternative to its all-paper bid. The offer of 22 Blacks shares for each Goldberg share is final and will not be increased.

The final closing date for the offer will be 1pm Wednesday September 27. Mr Simon Bentley, Blacks' chief executive, said the decision was made in light of Goldberg's statement last week that trading losses for the current year would be in excess of the £3.26

million deficit in last year's second half. Last week Rothschild, Goldberg's merchant banker, sought a full-cash alternative from Blacks. The value of Blacks' bid has dropped from 192.5p to 176p a share since it was launched, with Blacks' share price falling from 8.75p to 8p.

Blacks so far speaks for 35.3 per cent of Goldberg, including the 29.9 per cent held by Charterhall. But with no cash alternative there are doubts that it will achieve the 50 per cent needed to win in the next 10 days.

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

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● Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:
● Stock market comment: 0898 121220; Company news: 0898 121221; Active shares: 0898 121225
● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak, inc. VAT.

EIS ahead by 19% at half time

By Jeremy Andrews

Profits at EIS, the acquisitive maker of industrial machinery, aircraft galleys and flexible seals, were 19 per cent higher, at £5.48 million, in the six months to June on sales up 51 per cent at £76.2 million. Earnings rose more slowly — up 13 per cent at 13.4p, partly due to the dilution from the £12.5 million April rights issue. The interim dividend is to go up 12 per cent, to 2.75p. Turnover grew faster than profits because Stokes, the vacuum equipment maker bought for \$8.5 million in 1988, was financed by borrowings and thus added more to sales than to pre-tax results.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 2,830	Cookson 148	Lloyds 1,355	Scott & N 154
Aldi-Lyons 1,340	Courtaulds 1,107	Lloyds Abb 250	Seas 680
Armstrong 852	Dunlop 1,417	Lombard 1,368	Seagwick 494
ASDA 3,089	Dunlop 178	Lucas 526	Shell 1,784
AS Foods 66	EDF 118	MAS 3,084	Swire 18
Argus 827	Energy 1,128	Marshall Cn 1,463	Stagh 833
BAA 1,874	Ferranti 1/5	MB Group 35	Smith & N 1,201
BCL 105	Fluoro 584	MEPC 237	St. George's 304
BTH 887	FO 2,204	Meridian 23	Strom Ind 8
BAT 733	Gen Acc 275	Net West 2,688	Stn Chart 2,914
Berleys 587	GEC 2,021	Next 8	Sun Amco 880
Bentley 559	Glaxo 15	Nov Food 2,128	T Group 344
Bentley 258	Glaxo Inv 20	Parsons 138	Tarmac 1,430
Bentley Int 843	Granada 25	Pearl 138	Taylor Wood 137
BICC 265	Granada 3,081	Pension 159	Tesco 2,009
Blue Arrow 471	Granada Mat 256	Pittman 178	Thorn EMI 445
Blue Circle 1,335	GRE 870	Poly Pack 505	
BSA 681	GRE 870	Prudential 2,481	
BSA 1,170	GN 722	Racal 1,191	
BPI 2,107	Quayle 933	Racal 1,191	
Br Aero 1,338	Harwin 'A' 14	Rit Move 107	
Br Airways 1,531	Heron 7,247	Rit Move 107	
Br Comm 1,382	H & C 1,064		

Making the right moves

Preliminary Results
Year to 30th June 1989

■ PRE-TAX PROFIT	£110.4m	UP 10.8%
■ EARNINGS PER SHARE	33.6p	UP 12.4%
■ DIVIDEND	16.5p	UP 10%

"This has been a good year for Dalgety... I am confident that we are making the right moves to ensure our future success... Growth in earnings per share and dividends are our key concern."

MAURICE WARREN
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR

DALGETY

Morgan Crucible lifts interim profit to £23m

By Jeremy Andrews

Morgan Crucible, the manufacturer of electrical carbon, refractories and industrial ceramic products, produced a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £23.5 million in the six months to July 2, on sales 16 per cent up at £254 million. However, a four-point rise to 32 per cent in the tax charge, due to the exhaustion of overseas tax losses, trimmed the growth in earnings, leaving them 14 per cent up at £14.5p.

The main acquisition to affect the figures was the \$34 million purchase of the US

electrical carbon business of America's General Electric in December. Even so, all the acquisitions added only £900,000 to pre-tax profits in the first half, just a fifth of the rise in that period. Currency movements added £800,000 to translated profits, compared with an adverse effect of £1.3 million.

The best performance came in thermal ceramics, where operating profits rose £3 million to £5.6 million, helped by the consolidation of the IPC US refractories business

bought from McDermott for \$68 million in 1987. The biggest proportionate rise, from £100,000 to £800,000, was achieved in electronics, though margins remained poor on £19.4 million of sales.

Operating profits from carbon rose from £5.5 million to £8 million, and those from technical ceramics were up £500,000 at £4.5 million. Specialty chemicals chipped in only £300,000 more at £6.6 million as the mild winter depressed demand for Holt Lloyd's car care products. The

interim dividend is to rise only 9 per cent to 5.3 per cent, partly because its earnings cover is already low by the standards of comparable companies.

However, now that 80 per cent of Morgan Crucible's business is overseas, raising the dividend further might run the risk of incurring unrelieved advance corporation tax, says Dr Bruce Farmer, the managing director. Ways around the problem are being considered, though not by making acquisitions.

Ratners to raise £150m in issues

By Gillian Bowditch

Ratners Group, the jewellery chain run by Mr Gerald Ratner, is raising about £150 million via two preference share issues, in order to fund expansion plans in the US and reduce gearing, expected to be about 45 per cent by the year-end.

Ratners is issuing \$150 million (£95 million) of US variable-term preference shares and up to £50 million of UK redeemable preference shares. The issues need shareholder approval.

Mr Ratner said he had no specific US acquisition in mind, but intended to pursue his ambition of owning 1,500 shops with a 10 per cent share of the \$20 billion jewellery market in the US.

Ratners, whose main US chain is Sterling, will have 365 US shops by the end of the year, up from 310 a year ago. Mr Ratner said: "We intend going down the organic route with possibly a few small to medium-sized acquisitions. We will wait for someone in the US to get into trouble before we do another major deal."

He said prices for US jewellery chains had escalated recently.

The £50 million UK preference share issue will be used to refinance the £25 million 10.5 per cent preference shares being held by Next.

The rest of the money will be used to bring gearing down and fund working capital in the run-up to Christmas.

Ratners shares fell 5p to 280p.

Swiss poised to control half of Leica

Mr Stephan Schmidheiny, the Swiss industrialist, will control about 50 per cent of Leica, one of the world's largest optical and scientific instrument companies, once the deal has cleared US anti-trust laws.

The company was created by the merger of Cambridge Instrument and the Wild Leitz, the Leica camera group.

Pending regulatory approval, Unotec, Mr Schmidheiny's wholly-owned vehicle and others deemed to be acting in concert with him own 68.7 per cent of the combined group.

COMMENT

Gould shower should not drown investors

There is more political mileage in the Opposition trying to wreck the flotation of water than in any previous privatization. The Prime Minister personally ordered that it must go ahead in November at a time when some advisers wanted it postponed. The enabling Water Act was, moreover, pushed through Parliament without the public being convinced of its merits.

The scattershot volley of threats from Bryan Gould over the weekend should therefore be read strictly in this light. It is an attempt to put off potential investors in the 10 water service companies. As Neil Kinnock quickly attempted to point out, making shares in the water utilities — let alone British Gas — valueless and then graciously agreeing to buy them is far from new Labour policy.

The immediate effect of the outburst will be to ensure that the Treasury and its City advisers eschew any thoughts of bumping up the sale price in the wake of the apparent appeal of the expected terms in the City. Political caveats in previous prospectuses had little effect, but that may be because the Opposition's election chances did not look great.

Since much water will have passed under the bridge by the next election, the declaration of war is crucial; the battle plan can be left until later. If Labour did form the next Government, it would have far more options short of renationalization to regain control of water and electricity than in previous sales. In contrast to Telecom or Gas, water and electricity will be subject to intensive regulation within the terms of

the privatization statutes. These could be used to somewhat different purposes than the present Government intends.

Regulation of water covers price control, detailed investment control, rate of return control and, indirectly, dividend targets. Without amending the Water Act, therefore, a future government might be able to use the system of regulation to make significant changes.

The most likely change, in practice, would be to use the director general of water services to make the water and sewerage plcs like the old statutory water statutory water companies, whose regime was earlier canvassed as a possible alternative. The statutory company formula fixed maximum dividends. But it enabled the companies to borrow up to the hilt at relatively low interest cost by permitting them to recoup whatever was necessary from the customer. Prices were not controlled, so in theory there was no spur to efficiency.

The regulator's duty to make sure suppliers are financially viable, which was inserted into the privatization regime at the last moment, has a similar effect while maintaining some incentive and discipline. A Labour government could use the five-year review of price controls under the Water Act to reduce the rate of return and force up gearing. If it left investors with a fixed maximum dividend adjusted for inflation, it would only deprive them of any "excess" dividend growth — possibly between 1 and 4 per cent according to company. In practice, flotation prices for most of the companies will contain little allowance for this "excess growth" of dividends.

Public surplus, private debt

The public sector continues to head for a very large surplus this year. Exactly how large it will turn out is difficult to tell. Estimates range from well above the Budget forecast of £14 billion, as in Greenwell Montagu's £18 billion, to somewhat less.

So far this year there has been a cumulative surplus of £698 million compared to last year's surplus of £4.8 billion over the same period, but the difference largely reflects the timing of privatization proceeds. Excluding these, the surplus is only about £900 million down on last year — not a lot on projected spending this year of £167 billion.

The contrast with the private sector could not be more marked. Companies have moved sharply into financial deficit and as they try to cushion the

effect of falling sales revenue and rising costs. Debt service payments are mounting and the effect on profits is increasing.

The personal sector has also continued to increase its debt to sustain consumer spending, though borrowing for house purchase is well down. In this it has been helped by the squeezing of the differential between borrowers and depositors in building societies. At some stage the societies will want to stop asking their depositors to subsidize borrowers and re-establish the traditional differential.

Mr Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming Securities has drawn a gloomy scenario from these facts, in which the debt burden pushes the economy into recession and there is a risk of a banking crisis. We are not at that point yet.

UFI results jump 23% to £10.1m

United Friendly Insurance, the USM insurance underwriter, lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June by 23 per cent from £8.23 million to £10.11 million. The interim dividend rises 28 per cent to 12.25p (9.6p).

Premium income advanced from £81.8 million to £112.48 million. Earnings per share climbed 17 per cent from 43.72p to 51.11p.

The availability of high interest rates enabled the company to boost profits in the first half of 1989 by holding high cash balances.

Record bond

The World Bank has launched its first global bond, a \$1.5 billion (£986 million) 10-year issue on the Euromarkets and the US domestic market. It is the largest fixed-rate dollar-denominated debt issue ever in the international capital markets — to be handled by an international syndicate of 14 sponsors, led by Deutsche Bank Capital Markets and Salomon Brothers. The pricing of the bond will be fixed after discussions with potential investors.

Capital change

Capital Radio, the London commercial station, has announced a restructuring into four divisions. Capital Radio (London) will focus on the core London radio franchise, Capital Radio Investments on its portfolio of stakes in other independent radio companies, Capital Radio Sales will handle advertising, and Capital Radio Enterprises will focus on merchandising and the Capital Radio Music Festival.

Paul purchase

Alan Paul, the USM hair-dresser and beauty products retailer, is acquiring 14 salons from Portsea Island for £500,000. The shops, mainly in Hampshire, will be paid for through the issue of 277,778 new ordinary shares at 180p each.

BET's US buy

BET, the business services group, is expanding its US plant hire business by buying Scaffolding Management in California and Arizona for an undisclosed sum.

Shares halted

Shares in Seaford were suspended at 159p yesterday before an announcement, believed to be concerning a large acquisition.

Nomura's British expansion

Another Japanese securities giant is declaring its hand, slowly but surely, in the post-Big Bang City. Nomura International, with effect from October 1, is expanding its market-making activity from 28 UK companies to 40, all of them constituents of the FTSE-100 index. These new stocks will include all the FTSE shares in the banking sector. And to ensure that there will also be sufficient staff to handle this extra work, Nomura has just appointed three new employees. Chris Airey, a UK equity salesman previously with Warburg, starts next week and Andrew Hughes, former stories analyst with Hoare Govett, will join on October 2. He will be working with Ian Macdonnell as part of Nomura's expanding retail sector team. Arriving last, but by no means least, in early November, will be engineering analyst-cum-salesman Timothy Harris, who is still serving out his notice with Phillips & Drew. According to Nomura, Harris will aid team leader Charles Pick in its "expanding coverage of industrial holdings." Spokesman Keith Clarke says: "We are committed to European equities in general, and this represents an expansion of our UK equity business." Indeed, Nomura already follows some 150 European stocks and, as it is a research-led house, market-making in French and West German stocks surely cannot be far away.

Lloyds sells US division

By Cliff Feltham



Focusing on mainstream activities: Lloyds' Sir Jeremy Morse

Lloyds Bank is to sell part of its corporate banking business in the US to the big Japanese Daiwa Bank in a \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) deal.

Lloyds, chaired by Sir Jeremy Morse, has decided to unload 15 US offices, which last year made profits of \$11 million, because the operation is too small to compete effectively in its market area — generally catering for US companies worth around \$250 million.

Lloyds wants to concentrate on the larger and more profitable end of the US corporate banking sector — mainstream corporate, treasury and private banking business.

Daiwa, which like many Japanese financial institutions has been keen to build up its base in the US, is taking over the Lloyds loan book valued at \$1.4 billion and paying \$200 million for the business, which employs 170 people.

The proposed sale still has to get the green light from the regulatory authorities.

Mr Brian Pitman, Lloyds' chief executive, said: "The sale is consistent with our policy of concentrating our resources on mainstream activities which can make a significant contribution to our total business results. Lloyds' network of 15 offices focuses on the US domestic commercial middle market and has little linkage with our other activities." The sale proceeds will be invested in existing businesses.

Six-month limit on rate appeals

By John Lewis, Political Staff

Businessmen wishing to appeal against their new rates will have to do so within six months of their being announced. If they do not, they risk losing the chance to do so at all.

Mr David Hunt, Local Government Minister, said "an unfettered right" to propose a change in their rateable value only in the first six months of the new rating lists, which are coming into force on April 1 next year.

Proposals for the new business rates which are not agreed will go to the Valuation and Community Charge Tribunals.

Mr Hunt said that it was

Asda finds Gateway finance

By Our City Staff

Asda has confirmed plans to buy 61 Gateway superstores from Isoco for £705 million, and intends to raise £150 million by a vendor placing of convertible capital bonds if the deal is approved by shareholders at a meeting next month.

In the meantime finance is to come from an increase from £200 million to £500 million in its existing short-term multi-option facility syndicated by National Westminster Bank, and a new £250 million term loan facility with Swiss Bank Corporation.

Asda holds its annual meeting tomorrow and will next week post a circular to shareholders about the deal.

Accounting for tastes

An advertisement for accounting assistants, placed in last night's *Evening Standard* newspaper by Chevron, the oil and gas exploration and production company and promising to "broaden your experience," should certainly do just that. For the small print at the bottom of an otherwise fairly standard advertisement for the jobs — which offer a salary of £12,000 a year — reads: "Chevron welcomes sex with all suitably disabled people regardless of size of bank balance." A telephone call to Tony Aytward, the appointed contact man in "human resources," revealed that Chevron was far from amused by this apparent alteration to the original wording of the advertisement. "We normally have a very positive statement about the company at the bottom, stating 'Chevron welcomes applications from all suitably qualified people regardless of sex, ethnic origin or disability,'" said Aytward sternly. He had not yet, he added, discovered who was responsible for such "high jinks." "We are still investigating," he said.

● This could explain a few things... after an exhaustive study, researchers at Cornell University in the United States have discovered that 66 per cent of American businessmen wear their ties too tight. They claim that 12 per cent of them actually cut off the bloodflow to the brain, seriously affecting their thinking powers.

Carol Leonard

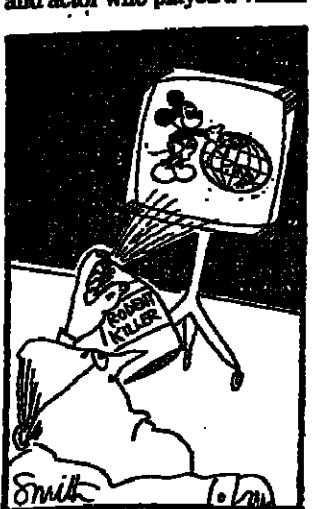
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lengthen by limiting

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is today expected to approve a change in the company's already long-winded name to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. The change amounts to just two characters. Its Chinese name, Wai Foong, translates into "abundance of remittances." An abundance of something, anyway...

Nagging paeon

Sotheby's is going into the horse-trading business. In its first sale of this kind it is selling 96 Arabian mares and fillies from the stable of Wayne Newton, the singer and actor who played a villain



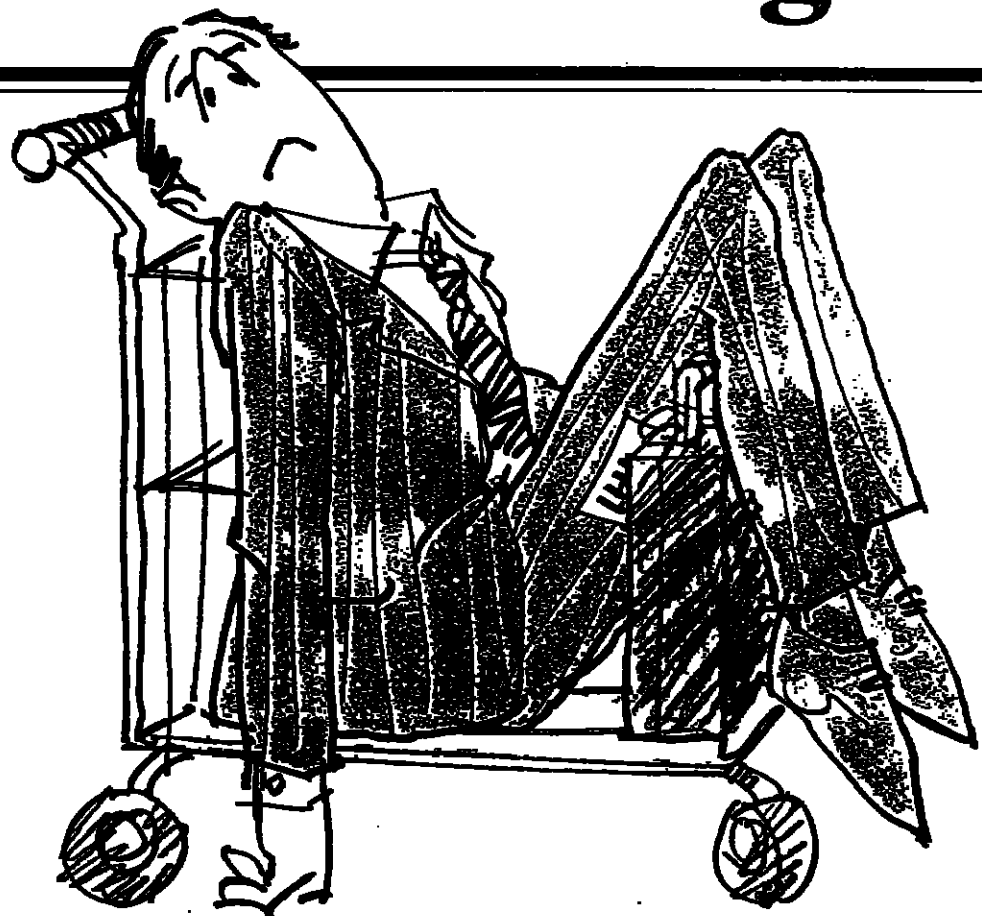
in *Licence to Kill*, the most recent James Bond film. Newton has been breeding Arabian horses for more than 25 years. The sale, which will be held at Newton's Las Vegas estate on September 30, is expected to raise more than £600,000. "We sell anything of high quality, anything to do with fine art — and these are some of the finest horses in the world," says Sotheby's.

Nap handy

According to Jim Horne, who runs a sleep research laboratory at Loughborough University, human beings are designed to have two sleeps a day. He claims that the milder the weather or the warmer it is in the office, the stronger the urge for a second sleep. Now he's urging bosses to consider launching Continental-style siestas to stop afternoon yawns.

TO AMSTERDAM

How to avoid terminal fatigue.



Wouldn't it be nice to change planes without having to change terminals? Well, at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport you can do just that. Fly Air UK to Amsterdam, and from there to a choice of 190 cities world-wide. And, because all the transfer facilities at Schiphol are within one terminal, catching a connecting flight won't tax your ingenuity or your temper. For information on flights and fares contact your travel agent or phone 0345 666 777.

To Amsterdam	
From Aberdeen	17 flights a week
Edinburgh	17 flights a week
Glasgow	18 flights a week
Humberside	17 flights a week
Leeds/Bradford	23 flights a week
London Stansted	25 flights a week
Newcastle	18 flights a week
Norwich	25 flights a week
Teesside	7 flights a week*

*Flights from London, subject to aircraft availability.

AirUK

Salvesen buys firm in Belgium

Christian Salvesen, the diversified food distribution and industrial services group, has acquired Henrotaux et Cie and Destexhe Frères (H&D), a Belgian pharmaceutical distribution business with a nationwide customer base, for BF210 million (£3.23 million).

Renown ahead

Renown Incorporated, the Japanese clothing distributor, lifted pre-tax income for the six months to end-June to ¥6.02 billion (£25.6 million), against ¥6.01 billion last time. Sales rose from ¥108.79 billion to ¥114.11 billion. Earnings per share climbed from ¥20.87 to ¥21.07.

Lookers deal

Lookers, the motor dealer, has declared its bid for SMAC, the Rover dealer in the South of England, unconditional. Trading has started in its new convertible preference shares and the nil-paid convertible shares from last month's £6 million rights issue.

BTI contract

British Telecom International (BTI) has won a \$6.4 million (£4.2 million) contract to install the first phase of a 1,200-mile optical fibre telephone link in Vietnam.

Hungry Asahi

Asahi Chemical Industry's foods division is taking a 20 per cent stake in Wattie Frozen Foods, a New Zealand subsidiary of Goodman Fielder Wattie.

Sale of assets

Manganese Bronze, the taxicabs and metal products manufacturer, has reached agreement for one of its subsidiaries to buy the assets and business of Homer Engineering and Plastics, now in receivership, for £1.01 million.

Dealer shuffle

Evans Haishaw, the Birmingham-based motor dealer, is selling one of its Ford sites in Newport, South Wales, to Inchcape for £8.15 million.

Laing extends

Laing Properties is to add 195,000sq ft of office space at its Lakeside and Camp Creek Business Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

Inchcape lifts dividend 64% on half-time £87m

By Stephen Leather

Inchcape, the overseas trading group, turned in pre-tax profits of £86.8 million, up 26 per cent, for the six months ending June. Earnings per share were up 22 per cent to 13.7p but the interim dividend is being boosted 64 per cent to 4.5p a share as Mr George Turnbull, the chairman, is keen to reduce the difference in size between the interim and final payments.

The group earns almost three-quarters of its profits from outside the UK, with almost half coming from the Far East and South-east Asia.

Mr Turnbull said: "Our performance in South-east Asia, particularly Singapore and Thailand, has been most encouraging, showing an increase in profits of 61 per cent over the same period last year." But he sounded a warning about Hong Kong, which has suffered a downturn in confidence since the massacre in Peking in June.

"We are seeing less buoyant trading conditions in some parts of the world and although we remain optimistic for its long-term future, Hong Kong is currently experiencing a slowdown in activity."

The only geographical area not in profit is Australia, but



A warning note about Hong Kong prospects: George Turnbull, the chairman of Inchcape

losses there halved over the period to £1.1 million.

More than half the group's profits came from the car sales business, which Mr Turnbull said made an "increased and substantial contribution helped by very good results in Belgium, Greece and Singapore." Profits for the division rose 31 per cent, from £44.1 million to £57.8 million, on sales 26 per cent higher at

£922.6 million. Inchcape sells Toyotas in Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg and Greece and throughout Asia.

Higher interest rates are putting pressure on the motor division, as well as pushing up finance charges, which increased from £9.7 million to £14.5 million.

Since Mr Turnbull took over as chairman at the start of the 1986 financial year he

has simplified the group's operating structure from more than 30 businesses to 10 key divisions.

The strategic businesses fall into three main areas: services (buying services, inspection and testing, insurance and shipping), marketing and distribution (business machines, consumer and industrial and motors), and resources (textiles and timber).

Elliott poised for control of Elders

From Martin Wina, Sydney

Mr John Elliott is poised to capture majority control of Elders DXL, the brewer of Foster's lager, after his management buyout team snapped up a crucial 15 per cent stake in the company.

Hartin Holdings, a private vehicle controlled by Mr Elliott—who is also chairman of Elders—and his fellow executives, yesterday confirmed it had picked up the holding as underwriter to an offer of Elders shares by Pettio, a joint venture between the UK-based AFP Group and the Australasian food company Goodman Fielder Wattie.

The transaction is a key element in Mr Elliott's ambitious Aus\$5.5 billion (£2.7

billion) bid to take Elders private.

It brings Hartin's direct entitlement in Elders, which owns Courage brewery in Britain, to 39 per cent, or 47 per cent fully diluted.

Mr Elliott and his colleagues paid about Aus\$900 million for the stake at Aus\$3 a share, after Elders' smaller shareholders spurned Pettio's pro rata offer. Mr Elliott is expected to cement his control of Australia's largest brewer within the next two weeks.

Elders' smaller shareholders are now rushing to accept Hartin's Aus\$3-a-share bid, which was tabled as a condition of underwriting the Pettio offer.

Tern falls to £2.9m loss at half time

By Neil Bennett

The fall in the housing market has sent Tern, the acquisitive property and estate agency group, to a pre-tax loss of £2.92 million in the six months to end-June, compared with a profit of £329,000 in the first half of 1988. This was despite a 24 per cent rise in turnover to £25.1 million. There is no dividend.

Most of the losses came from Tern's chain of 43 estate agencies. Tern said it had closed several branches this year and halted its expansion programme. Tern has now sold half of the property services division to Equity & Law Life Assurance Society for £5 million.

In a deal worth £8.85 mil-

lion, Equity & Law is also taking a 10 per cent stake in the group at 25p a share, and subscribing for preference shares to increase its stake to 29.9 per cent at 35p a share.

Tern says trading should improve in the second half as profits come in from a large warehouse development in West Thurrock, Essex. The company said it now has six sites ready for development and is planning a more even flow of profits from its property division.

Its construction division remained in the black, while any continuing losses from the estate agencies would now be offset through Equity & Law's share of the business.

BUSINESS LETTERS

A better way to account for inflation

From Prof D. R. Myddelton
Sir, May I add to Sir Douglas Morpeth's long list of reasons (Business Letters, September 12) why the CCA accounting standard failed. In July 1977 chartered accountants in England and Wales passed a motion that "the members of this Institute do not wish any system of current cost accounting to be made compulsory." Under government pressure, the council of the English Institute took no notice.

Sir Douglas Morpeth says he would rather see no infla-

tion "and therefore no inflation accounting." This logical conclusion certainly applies to constant purchasing power accounting, but not to current cost accounting, which (as SSAP 16 itself admitted) "is not a system of accounting for general inflation."

The pound has lost more than half its purchasing power since Mrs Thatcher's "anti-inflation" Government came to power. Inflation has averaged about 7 per cent a year since 1979.

So there does seem to be a clear need for some workable

system of inflation accounting. May I suggest constant purchasing power accounting as a logical, comprehensive system of accounting for inflation, which allows for sensible comparisons over time. Unlike CCA, it could be fairly simple, too. My own proposed CPP accounting standard comprises less than 400 words.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. MYDDELTON
Cranfield Institute of Technology,
Bedford,
September 13.

A moral question for banks and societies

From Mr John F. Martin
Sir, Mr Wiseman (Business Letters, September 12) queries the commercial morality of a bank debiting a customer's account on the date it issues a banker's draft to that customer.

Building societies operate similarly every time a customer asks for a cheque to settle an account. This is especially anomalous when the cheque is to support an application for shares, when

that application is unsuccessful and the cheque is returned unpresented.

Building societies do not nullify the original debit to the account, and the customer loses interest for the period until he pays the cheque back into his account.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tycehurst Hill,
Loughton,
Essex,
September 12.

Lloyd's lament

From Mr Naim E. Dangoor
Sir, The chairman of Lloyd's, Mr Murray Lawrence, grows about record profits, but the true picture is different.

If the 1986 results followed the pattern of 1985, then some names would have made a profit of 19 per cent on their allocated premium income.

As the market worked at 32 per cent of capacity this means that some names made a net profit of an unheard-of 54 per cent of the premium they received.

This shows the extent by which the 50 or so privileged "baby" syndicates are creaming off the market at the expense of the rest of us.

Clearly Lloyd's needs a revolution to put matters right. Otherwise, with claims now beginning to run into billions of pounds, more of us would be tempted to leave the black hole of Line Street.

Yours faithfully,
NAIM E. DANGOOR,
25 Albert Hall Mansions,
Kensington Gore,
London, SW7.

Safely on board

From Miss Anne-Marie Shepherd

Sir, "1992: are we missing the boat?" (article, September 7). Certainly I am not, and nor are the 80 of my Sheffield Polytechnic colleagues I have joined.

I am off to West Germany for the third year sandwich of my international business degree course; 48 weeks in the overseas sales department of Daimler-Benz in Stuttgart.

Offers of jobs in April 1991 please, to the address below.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE-MARIE SHEPHERD,
The Warden's House,
Kingham Hill School,
Kingham, Oxford.

Giving aid to poor at expense of others

From W Dorward
Sir, The concept of trade restrictions as a form of aid is one of the more imaginative creations of those who would perpetuate *sine die* the "temporary" protection of the textile industries of the West first introduced in 1960 and now enshrined in the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA).

In his letter (Business Letters, September 5), Mr JR Wilson of the Apparel, Knitting and Textile Alliance says "[the MFA] guarantees access for the poorest developing countries, which would other-

wise lose out to the dominance of Hong Kong, South Korea and China".

Are we seriously being asked to accept that this quasi-philanthropic objective constitutes a justification for the perpetuating trade barriers?

And is there not something immoral about the proposition that the relatively rich can arbitrarily give aid to the very poor at the expense of others?

Yours faithfully,
W DORWARD
49 Braid Farm Road
Edinburgh
September 5

Time to redress the resources balance

From Mr James Pretty

Sir, In a recent leader you mentioned an official claim that the net flow of resources from countries of the "North" to the "South" is positive and not negative as had been supposed.

Even if this is true at present prices, it ignores the absurdly low prices (still falling in real terms) which have to be accepted by commodity producers, whose bargaining power is almost nil.

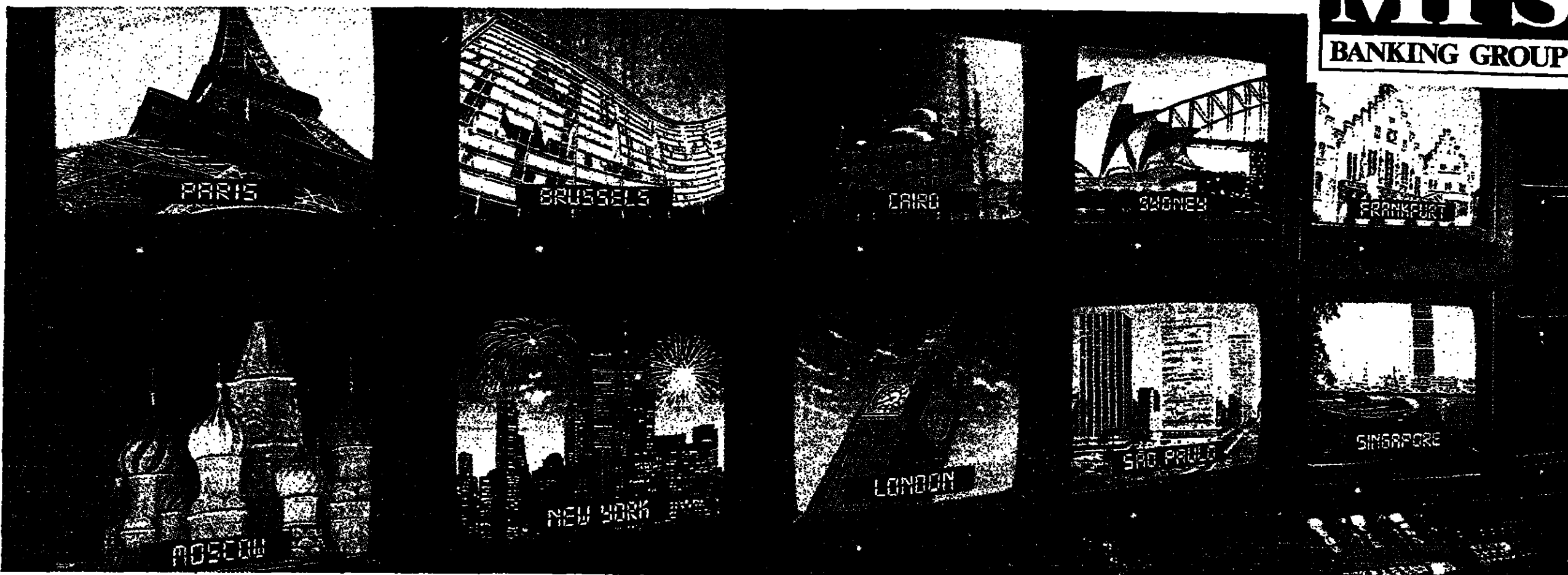
The burden falls most heavily on the peasants, plantation workers and miners concerned, and until this situation is redressed, we remain heavily in debt to these primary producers.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PRETTY,
24 Merton Road,
Watton,
Thetford,
Norfolk,
September 11.

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Goal soars to £3m at half time

By David Young

Goal Petroleum has reported pre-tax profits of £3.09 million for the first six months of this year compared to a £22,000 loss for the same period last year, after making a £1.86 million profit on the sale of its stake in the North Sea Claymore field.

Goal had an after-tax profit of £2.02 million (loss of £275,000). During the same period last year it had a tax credit of £183,000, and earnings per share in the first half of this year of 1.52p compared with a previous loss of 0.25p.

Borrowings of £18.3 million have taken the company's gearing up to 25 per cent after it used bank finance to pay for its share of the costs of developing the Wyth Farm onshore field and acquiring stakes in the North Sea Magnus and Balmoral oil fields.

Goal is still looking for new North Sea investments and in the current year will step up its onshore exploration programme by starting work on six wells in the Swange, Dorset, area.

Judge to decide whether complex trial next year can be speeded up

Guinness hearing opens

By Our City Staff

The judge who is to preside at the trial next year of seven defendants on charges arising from the Guinness takeover of Distillers began hearing legal argument yesterday on pre-trial issues.

Mr Justice Henry has been asked to rule on whether the complex trial should be split. He is also expected to hear how the prosecution can simplify the case by "pruning" its long list of charges, and to rule on whether any points of law raised by the defence can be dealt with before the trial.

Two defendants — Mr Ernest Saunders, former Guinness chairman, and Lord Spens, former managing director of the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher — were in court for the "preparatory hearing" at the Law Courts in London.

The others — Mr Tony Parnes, Mr Gerald Renson, Sir Jack Lyons, Mr Roger Seelig and Mr David Mayhew — were not in court, but were represented by counsel. The hearing is expected to last several days.



In London yesterday: Ernest Saunders, former Guinness chairman, and Lord Spens

Bass sells 11 hotels to Control

By Cliff Feltham

Control Securities, the property and leisure group run by Mr Nazim Virani, has bought 11 hotels in Spain from Bass, the brewer, for £45 million. The hotels, all in the two- to three-star range, have a total of 3,500 rooms.

Bass acquired the hotels as part of the 1987 takeover of the Horizon Travel business. Bass has decided to concentrate on developing the US Holiday Inns hotel chain it acquired for £1.2 billion last month, turning it into the world's largest hotel operator.

Control Securities, whose flagship is the 244-room Holiday Inn in Marble Arch, London, now has a total of 5,000 hotel rooms. But the acquisition is surprising in light of the drop in the number of tourists visiting Spain.

The company has recently been buying back its own shares, giving rise to speculation about a management buyout. The lacklustre performance of the shares has disappointed Mr Virani, who feels the City has never given them the rating they deserve.

Walker encourages Japan and Korea to invest in Wales

By John Lewis
Political Staff

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Wales, is to follow the Prime Minister's visit to Japan with a crusade to obtain more Japanese development for the principality.

He is to fly to South Korea, on Sunday, where he will meet the Prime Minister, Mr Kang Young Hoon, and leading businessmen. Welsh International, the inward investment arm of the Welsh Development Agency, has set up an office in Seoul.

On Wednesday he is to fly to Japan, where he is to meet senior Japanese politicians and businessmen, like Mr Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota.

Mr Walker said that he was confident of obtaining new investment from both Korea and Japan.

Wales already has Sony, Panasonic, Sharp, Brother and Toyota. Korea is expected to invest



Walker: overseas campaign in car components, Japan in more electronics.

Mr Walker points out that in the past two years, Wales, with 5 per cent of the population, has taken 21 per cent of the inward investment in the whole of Britain.

Unemployment has fallen faster than in any other region. This is without some of the recent important investment — by Ford, Toyota and Bosch — having had time to have an effect.

Miss World contest is moved to Hong Kong

By Stephen Leather

The Miss World beauty contest is to be held outside the United Kingdom for the first time in its 39-year history.

As a consequence of a £1 million sponsorship deal with a Taiwanese airline, this year's competition is to be staged in Hong Kong.

The contest was due to be held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in November, being broadcast through a new satellite system launched by British Satellite Broadcasting. But delays in the launch of the satellite and a decision by Thames Television, which had sponsored the contest for the past nine years, not to continue its association meant that Mr Eric Morley, chairman of the Miss World Group, had to seek a new backer.

He signed a £1 million sponsorship contract with Formosa Airlines, of Taiwan. As part of the deal the airline

insisted on the right to host the final in Hong Kong.

Formosa Airlines is to pay £750,000 in sponsorship. It will also be paying up to £650,000 for hotel bills, expenses and television and transmission costs.

"This is great news for Hong Kong," said Mr Morley. "It is the first time in the 39 years of the contest that it has been held outside the UK."

Mr Morley is to negotiate with British television companies for the right to broadcast a taped version of the show. The decision to move the show to Hong Kong means it is unlikely that the world's most beautiful women will be coming to London.

"We can't afford to fly them all here and put them up in hotels," said Mr Morley. "I am now looking for backers who are prepared to sponsor girls to come to London for four days before the com-

petition in exchange for them attending promotions and conventions. But if we can't get the sponsorship, they won't be coming."

The Miss World Group will be told today whether it can stage this year's Miss World competition at the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre on November 22. It is intended the show will be sent by satellite to more than 500 million people in 55 countries.

Mr Morley said he turned down an attempt by Formosa Airlines to tie him to a three-year contract. He said: "The British television companies are pulling their horns in this year to save money for the auction of television broadcasting licences. I think they will be more interested in sponsoring the contest next year, but we have already had offers to hold next year's show in Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Spain."

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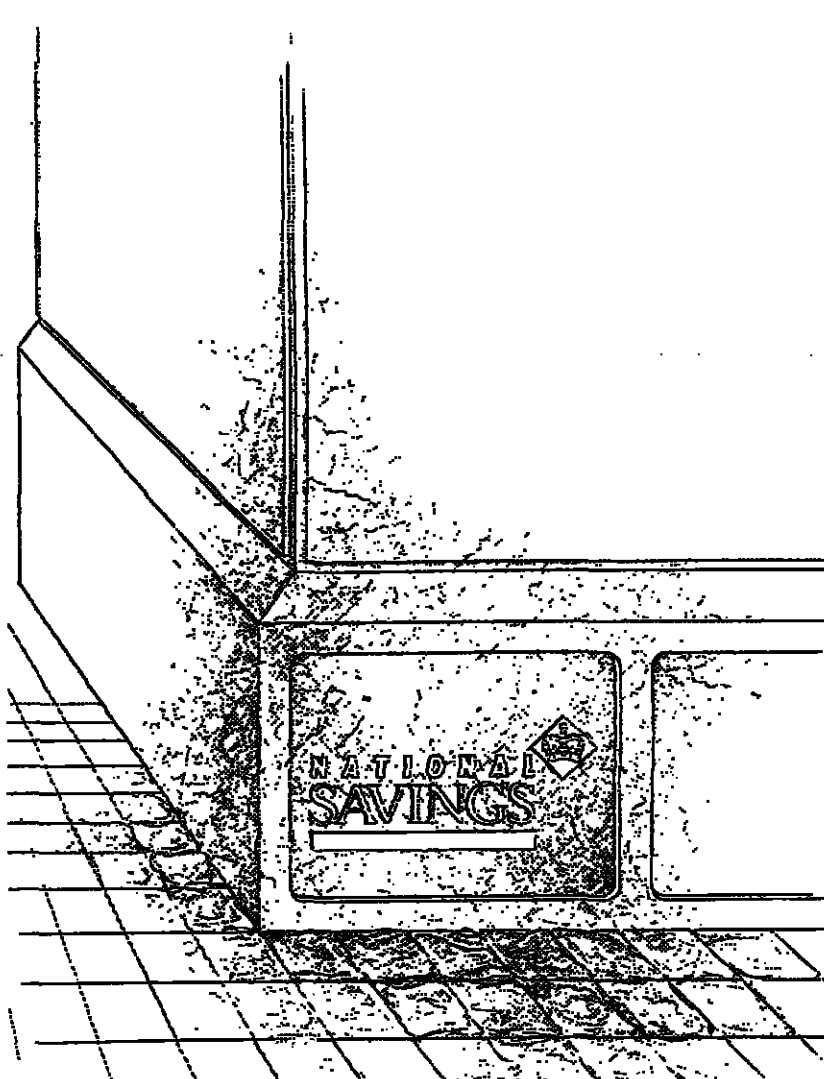
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	Half Year		Full Year
	1989	1988	1988
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Premiums — Life	83,361	53,965	110,904
— General	29,122	27,838	54,461
Profit before tax	10,113	8,237	15,952
Profit attributable to shareholders	8,110	6,934	12,626
Dividend	12.25p	9.60p	31.25p
Earnings per share	51.11p	43.72p	79.60p

■ Pre tax profits up 23% and interim dividend increased by 28%

■ Continued growth in personal pension business and ordinary life products

■ Strong growth in investment income

■ Another good year for general business is expected with underwriting surplus of £1.9m after 26 weeks

The 1989 Interim Statement will be sent to all Shareholders on 26 September 1989. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, United Friendly Insurance plc 42 Southwark Bridge Road London SE1 9HE Telephone: 01-928 5644 Fax: 01-261 8077

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APRICOT Qi PCI	£3495	25MHz	120Mb	MCA 32bit	YES
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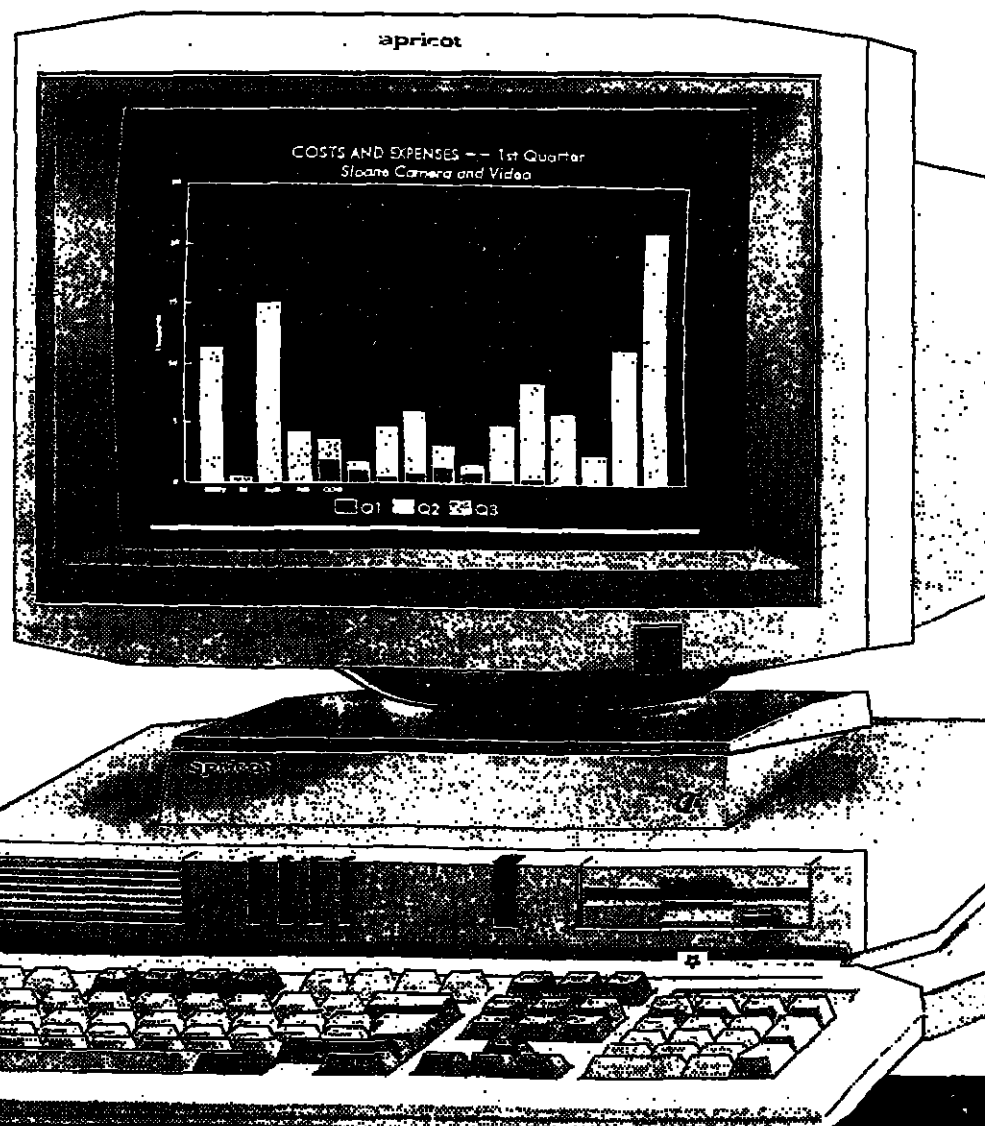
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THE NETWORKERS



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Challenge of training the youngsters

John McKenzie, of the Institution of Civil Engineers, talks to Rodney Hobson about the vital tasks the profession faces

The Channel Tunnel, new roads, light railways, the regeneration of inner cities and environmental issues are all putting civil engineering back on centre stage as part of our everyday lives. Civil engineering has long been fragmented in this country, with the profession split into different disciplines. While this had its advantages in the past, producing specialists on a par with anywhere in the world, its weakness is now becoming apparent and is leading to changes of attitude.

John McKenzie, secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers, says: "Most things in civil engineering are multi-disciplined. There are two great struggles in training you can't go back to a multi-disciplinary education because knowledge has been doubling every five years, and engineers must have a major discipline and also have a comprehensive knowledge of what the other chap is doing in order to be effective."

He says that not enough civil engineers are being trained and the trend is likely to get worse. Part of the problem lies in the fact that the boom in construction up to 1981 encouraged school-leavers to join the profession, but it takes eight

Engineers from all parts of the world will gather in London tomorrow for the Channel Tunnel international conference, where they will discuss the progress of construction and management of one of the greatest civil engineering projects of this century.

Day One of the three-day conference will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster. On Thursday, delegates have the choice of visits to the British or French terminals, then move on to Paris for the final day's sessions at Le Méridien Montparnasse Hotel.

The conference is organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Société des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France.

years to bring a new entrant up to the required standard. The bulge and time gap meant that more than enough civil engineers were coming on stream in the 1980s.

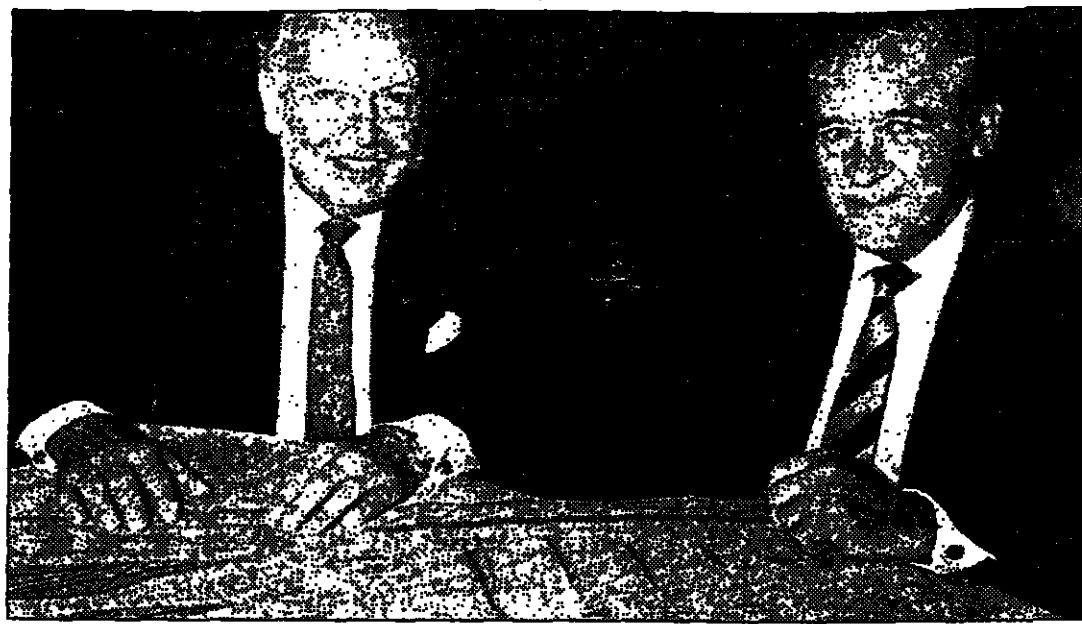
McKenzie explains what happened: "In the eight years after 1981 we passed through the most awful depression the industry has known. A lot of young civil engineers went abroad. Salaries were depressed. The people who got hurt were youngsters coming

into the profession. The message got back, 'don't go into civil engineering'. When civil engineering takes off again there is a danger that there will be a dearth both in numbers and in quality."

He is concerned that those trained in technology have not been highly regarded in this country. We value most the old professions, such as the law, and the new high-growth financial services have seemed attractive and paid extraordinary sums of money. "So young people were persuaded not to go into technology and, when they did, they were seduced down to the City to do something quite different. We will pay for this as a nation later."

He feels the Engineering Council is doing a great job but it would help if teachers were more knowledgeable and could advise children better on where to use their talents when they grow up. Particularly, he criticizes schools for the shortage of girls joining the profession. "We are getting more, but not enough."

There is a problem in the profession, too. "We must use those we do train and who qualify better than we do now. To use highly-qualified civil engineers in inferior capacities is a bit stupid."



John McKenzie (left), secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and Jolyon Dromgoole, a director

from a technological or monetary point of view without due regard for what is best for human beings, perhaps not today but in 50 years' time."

He says that after the war, civil engineers were involved in simply getting life back to normal but then came the age of the accountant. He admits: "We needed it. We had gone esoteric and inclined to be wasteful and inefficient. But the

pendulum is likely to be seen in retrospect as having gone too far. Between the two we tended to get out of focus the needs of human beings, something that is not so easily stated in pounds or dollars but has to be assessed in another way. We need more understanding managers."

McKenzie sees environmentalists as good at raising storm signals but warns: "You must have

enough background to take a balanced view. If you lower standards of living unacceptably you still would not have achieved much."

In the inner cities, he feels much progress has been achieved on a problem that could not have been put off much longer. "Some of the good things we have been doing in Britain have been to correct past faults and dereliction. As the earliest industrialized country in Europe we were in greater need for an approach that would help inner cities than the majority of our neighbours and competitors."

The aim, he says, is that communities can be self-financing and, more importantly, can have their self-respect to hold the new generations born there.

The exercise is important for civil engineers themselves, extending their knowledge and experience. They have had to cope with difficulties as diverse as dealing with large areas of poisoned land or making foundations of buildings sound-proof against roads and underground railways.

Transport is perhaps the challenge of the immediate future. McKenzie says: "We have been parsimonious with our investment in the communications system for 20 years. Although we are improving the investment in roads we are still doing too little in the other forms of transport to keep us abreast of what will be needed."

Duke defends the British consultants

The Duke of Gloucester has no doubt that British consultants have much to hope for from overseas construction markets. Of frequent tours that he undertakes with consultants, he says: "We are welcomed, and I have no doubt that we are welcomed because we are British. People in other countries expect a high degree of professional competence and integrity from us because we are British, and they regard us as fair-minded, which counts for a great deal, especially in the Middle East."

It is common for consultants from other nations, he says, to present attractive and comprehensive packages but these look different once the work is completed.

"Certainly the Japanese, for example, have got their act together in making a package look attractive, while we need to re-examine our own techniques, but the way the Japanese carry out the work does not always win them friends."

"Clients are less than happy when they see that plant, equipment, materials and personnel are all Japanese. Afterwards, the Japanese leave a completed project but the client country is not otherwise enriched."

"Some Britons become quite upset that British consultants are strongly inclined to specify what is best for the client, instead of making British balance of payments top priority, but that is what the client expects of us and it wins us friends. Sometimes British equipment is best for a specific job but there are times when it is not. Our people more than any other seem to specify by judgement, not chauvinism, and it is appreciated."

The Duke suspects that Britain's Victorian entrepreneurial past created traditions which serve us well. Perhaps, for all that was

imperfect, the nation learnt how to establish lasting bonds of friendship.

"In China and elsewhere I have heard senior people speak with great sincerity of 'old friends' and they do not mean the Germans who were there a few months ago; they mean the Victorian Britons who were responsible for their railway."

Britain is also fortunate in having consultants who are willing to move from one overseas project to another.

"I suppose we have inherited that tradition from the Empire," he suggests. "We are enjoying post

colonial relationships."

One of the ways in which this maturity of attitude manifests itself is in using overseas work as opportunity to train local people.

"I often notice a feeling that opportunity should be taken to train up indigenous skills."

"This is very valuable because, firstly, we are offered only the cream of available talent, because that is in the client's interests. Also, the trainees often come to the UK, which promotes understanding, trust and further co-operation."

British lack of chauvinism may be a valuable asset in Europe.



Speaking out: Duke of Gloucester

"Europeans tend to show their feelings more strongly about these things than we do," he says. "The result is that a German client, for example, will prefer a German consultant but, if he does appoint

one from elsewhere, he is more likely to pick a British firm than perhaps a French one."

The Duke is a qualified and experienced architect. Although he does not practice now, he has a word of warning for those of his discipline who intend to ignore the opportunities of Europe.

"Imagine a situation where a British architect has a healthy relationship with a British industrial client who wants to expand by building a factory in Portugal, thus getting a good many benefits. The architect might look at the Portuguese regulations and decline the job, so that a Portuguese architect can take it. Should the British architect be surprised if the client then wants a factory outside Swindon and asks the Portuguese practice to handle it?"

Are our consultants sufficiently valued in the UK?

"Certainly not. One of the great pleasures of going on missions is that I constantly meet genuine, hard-working and talented people whose compensation for their hard work is that many people benefit from it. They rarely receive the recognition or the rewards they deserve but they do have a high level of satisfaction from it."

The Duke has close links with other construction industry professions — one of the reasons the British Consultants' Bureau asked him to become its president.

"They had a problem because, while the people who join the BCB belong to professional bodies which are independent of government, this is not so all over Europe where some are like extensions of the civil service. We have tried to create an international body which can negotiate with governments," he says. "It is hard work but it is well worth doing. And it has convinced me that the opportunities are there for British consultants."

Angus Thomson

FOUNDATIONS OF CIVILISATION

Civilisation is built on simple things, like a plentiful supply of wholesome water,
healthy arrangements for disposing of waste and effluents,
a reliable supply of usable energy,
a complex network of transport communications,
and all compatible with the responsible husbandry of our environment.

Civilisation needs more than all this, but cannot survive without it.

Some people refer to this as the infrastructure.

Others call it the fabric of the nation.

To those of our 70,000 members who design, build and service it,
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Some have the task of maintaining the standards of our society,
while others labour to establish those standards for those less fortunate.

They are men and women who, calling upon years of training and generations of learning,
serve communities in 146 countries around the world.

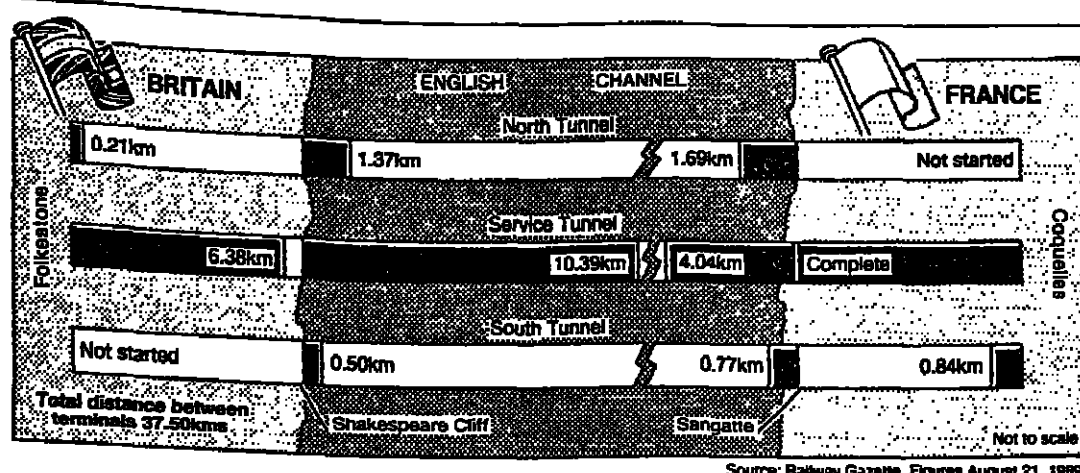
Civil engineers sustain our nation and those who look to us for sustenance;
their overseas earnings are amongst the unsung achievements of our time.

We owe them more than we know.

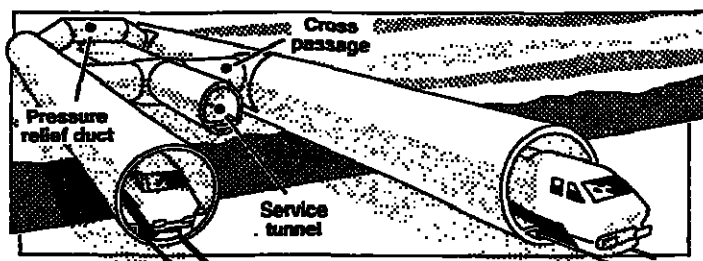


THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Founded in 1818 for the challenges of tomorrow.



Above: construction work on the three tunnels is under way from Britain and France. The central service tunnel will be the first to be completed. Right: cross passages are built in every 375 metres, and pressure relief ducts every 250 metres



Working towards the light at the centre of the Tunnel

Though dismissed by cynics as just another hole in the ground, the Channel Tunnel will be one of the great civil engineering accomplishments of the 20th century. The scale of the project is awesome. By itself, the new rail terminus at Cheriton, Kent, has already been billed as the third largest construction site in Britain after Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, and the Sizewell B nuclear power plant in Suffolk.

Once completed, at a cost of around £6 billion, the project will provide an umbilical cord between the road and rail networks of Europe, capable of carrying high-speed passenger and freight services linking the major centres throughout the Continent.

After initial teething problems, there is growing confidence that the concession granted to Eurotunnel in 1987, a partnership between the Channel Tunnel Group and France Manche, will be operating by the 1993 deadline.

For Transmanche Link (TML), the consortium of 10 British and French construction companies which won the contract from Eurotunnel to build the tunnel, 1989 has been a good year for boring under the Channel.

The tunnel project, made up of twin rail tunnels (7.6 metres in diameter) carrying the shuttle, passenger and freight trains, and

Steady progress on the £6 billion 'hole' keeps all sides happy

linked together with a service tunnel (6.8 metres in diameter), will be about 50 kilometres long. The main rail tunnels will be joined to the service tunnel by link passages every 375 metres, and a walkway on the service tunnel side will deal with emergencies.

At Castle Hill, north of Folkestone, from where the tunnel descends under Shakespeare Cliff, and Beausine Farm, near Calais, where the tunnel will eventually emerge, a small army of construction workers are now in place.

The tunnels are being bored through the lower part of what is known as the Lower Chalk, a strong, uniform stratum of chalk marl (a mixture of chalk and clay) about 40 metres below the seabed, which runs along about 90 per cent of the tunnels' alignment.

Apart from the first five kilometres of tunnel on the French side, which have to go through a layer of white chalk, admitting about 50 times more water than the chalk marl, the geological conditions for boring are little short of ideal.

Last year's acrimonious exchanges between Eurotunnel and

TML, which reached their height when the French team were six months behind schedule and the British team three months, have since given way to a more congenial atmosphere, cemented by recent impressive progress.

However, the time pressures faced by Alastair Morton and André Bénard, the joint chairmen of Eurotunnel, have given way to new financial pressures following the disclosure, that the project was over-running initial estimates.

British and French boring teams are now more than half way on the service tunnel and, at the current rate of progress of 276 metres a week, should meet each other in late 1990.

The contractors are confident that the massive tunnel boring machines (TBMs), which have a maximum speed of 0.003mph, are unlikely to miss each other by more than a few millimetres, as a fortune has been spent on sophisticated laser and satellite technology to guide them.

None the less, geology is unpredictable. Despite the extensive exploration of the seabed, conditions can vary strikingly within a few metres. All will be surprised if the project is completed without some surprises.

Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

Plans for rail boom

Completion of the Channel Tunnel will give British, French and Belgian railways an opportunity to compete with the over-burdened air transport sector in the booming short-haul passenger market.

But a preoccupation with passenger travel at the expense of freight distribution has prompted some critics to warn that the Channel Tunnel could result in an increasingly congested south-east of Britain, and lost opportunities for regional re-development.

The outline of British Rail's passenger services is now known. With its French and Belgian counterparts, BR is planning to spend around £500 million on 30 new high-speed trains to link Edinburgh and the regions with Paris and Brussels.

The first of these new "sleek and streamlined" trains, incorporating elements of the French TGV and BR's latest high speed trains, is expected to be running by 1993, and will form the backbone of the long awaited through services to the Continent. The existing east and west coast main lines will be used for the new trains, which can travel up to 180mph, thus reducing journey times from Edinburgh

The Channel Tunnel gives British Rail the chance to compete in the short-haul passenger market. But what about freight? Michael Dynes reports

to Paris and Brussels to seven and a quarter hours, and seven hours, respectively.

Immigration and Customs formalities will be conducted on board, with French officials checking passengers embarking in Britain, and British officials checking passengers embarking on the Continent. Services linking London with Paris and Brussels will have frontier formalities at Waterloo station.

But, while plans for exploiting the new passenger services are clearly well advanced, BR has come under growing pressure to provide a similar scheme for the substantial increase in freight traffic expected to accompany the completion of the European internal market after 1992.

According to Jolyon Dromgoole, a director of the

Institution of Civil Engineers, "there is a need to spread the economic benefits created by the Channel Tunnel much more widely than is envisaged by British Rail". Dromgoole, along with many other critics of BR, fears that current freight distribution plans will simply promote further economic growth (and congestion) in the south-east, at the expense of the Midlands and the North.

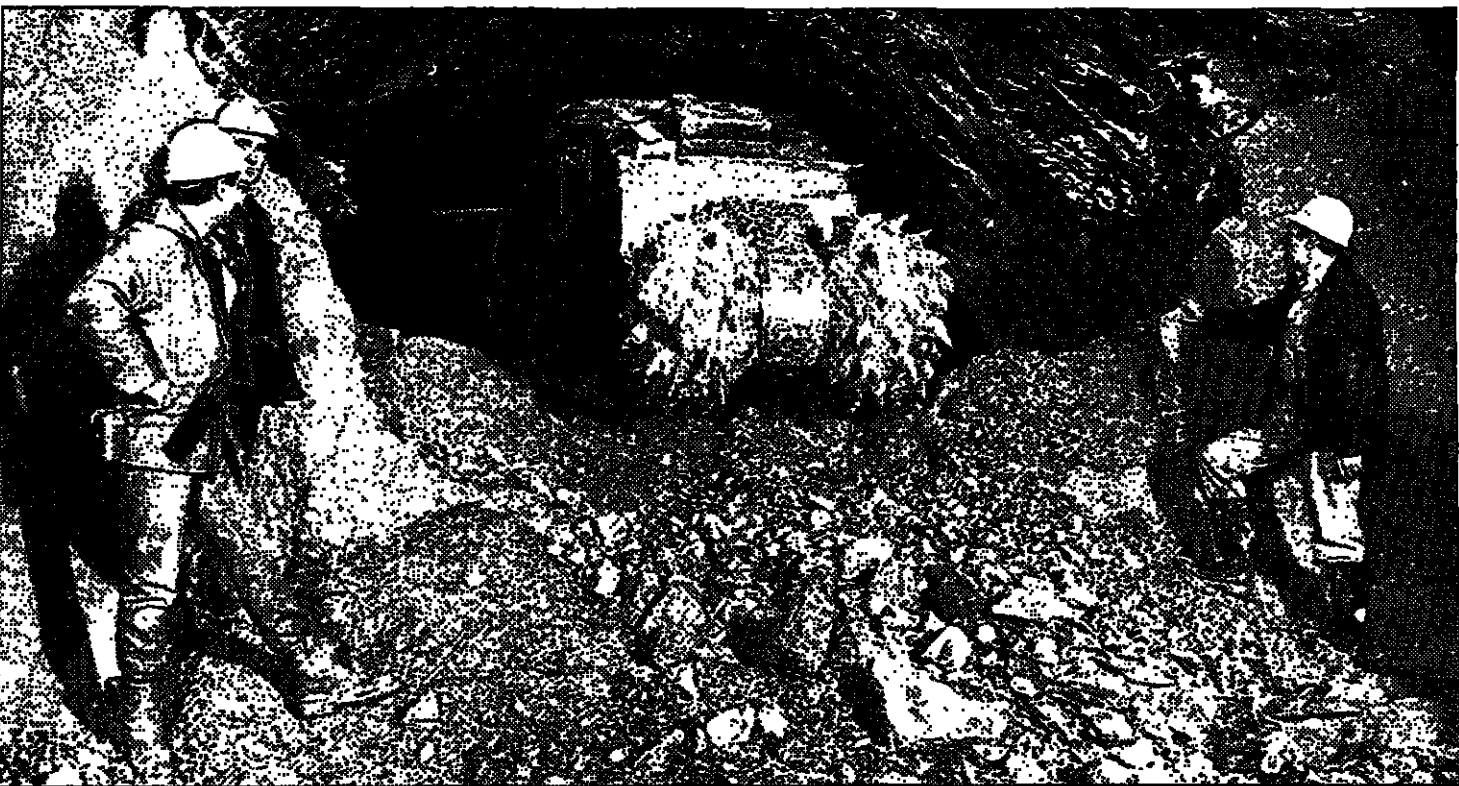
"We need a dedicated freight route to the North to help reduce congestion in the south-east, creating a new north-south axis which will help revitalize the country, particularly the regions," he says. "The Liverpool docks, for example, are showing new signs of life. The Channel Tunnel could be a major fillip to this regeneration by transforming the docks into the premier port for container traffic across the Atlantic."

BR's critics are not calling for a new line. But they are adamant that there is a need for a technical assessment of what would be needed to enable freight trains to service the regions without having to go via London. "BR is pre-occupied with passengers and backward on freight," Dromgoole says. "It seems odd that no political party has picked up the freight issue, and the need to exploit the enormous capital investment in rail which is just lying there."

By contrast, the French government is taking a strategic view of the Channel Tunnel by "enhancing road, rail, passenger and freight facilities" in an effort to ensure all sectors of its economy benefit from the project.

Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, has shown much interest in the problem, Dromgoole says, "but there is an urgent need for BR and the Department of Transport to take action immediately".

He adds: "Lost ground could possibly be recovered if the problem was attacked with sufficient vigour, but this would require a convulsion in thinking."



Breakthrough: engineers at the British end supervise the sophisticated digging machine which bores service tunnels for the Channel Tunnel

A caring profession finds a new persona for the future

In 1913, the Institution of Civil Engineers, already almost 100 years old, built itself a magnificent nine-level, stone headquarters at Westminster. Here, thought the 8,000 members, was a fitting centre where professional standards could be created and maintained. They were right, but 76 years on the world has changed.

Now there are 70,000 members serving communities in 146 countries. The profession is more complex, information requirements more urgent, standards more demanding and communications more technical than before.

In serving the profession, and in seeking to answer these demands, the ICE had developed a network of more than 100 expert groups. These are volunteer engineers whose donated executive time is worth, at current rates, many millions of pounds annually.

In the early 1980s, however, it became clear that, while the ICE was respected, it was only partly in accord with the aspirations of its members. They were less interested in tradition. Certainly, they approved the increasingly high standards of qualification and learned society meetings and publications. But they required a modern organization, with career learning opportunities, advanced systems of information retrieval, unity and energy throughout member groups and a general public appreciation of the value of both the organization and its members.

Civil engineers are preparing for the 1990s with headquarters to match a modern image, Angus Thomson writes

Today, most of those requirements are being met. No. 1-7 Great George Street, one of London's earliest steel-framed buildings, reverberates to pneumatic tools as it is converted from what was built to be, in effect, an exclusive London club (although one with a heavy emphasis on acquiring knowledge) into a flexible complex of offices, information systems, committee and lecture facilities, and a prestigious conference centre. The irony of the role reversal, with the Institution of Civil Engineers the client, was not lost on its leaders, and great care has been taken to ensure that all goes well with the contract.

Building Design Partnership was appointed consultant for a complete but sympathetic overhaul of the Grade II listed building. Hollway White Allom won the construction contract. Refurbishment work to eight figures began earlier this year and, although the first sections have already been handed back, will continue next year.

Work on the main activities — education and training, and learned society — continues to develop beside the newest of the ICE key functions, public affairs. Enhanced awareness is a major objective, with the result that politicians and

their servants, journalists, careers teachers and advisers, industrialists and many others are being repeatedly reminded of who civil engineers are, what they do, and how the profession is organized. Reports, based on in-depth research by teams of civil engineering experts, are used as guides by government. Increasingly, these are recognized as accurate and objective summaries.

Many of the stalwart staff who served the ICE for years have retired, and the average age has decreased. Professor Peter Stott, who will be president from next November, has twice in the past decade examined the ICE use of its management and personnel resources. Ten years ago, his comments fell short of favourable; his recent re-examination established that staffing is lean, keen, well-equipped and sometimes under excess pressure.

Developing the unique library — begun with a bequest of books from first president, Thomas Telford, when he died in 1834 — from a paper resource into a high-tech one is a massive task, but already the library catalogue and a bulletin board of events and topics are computerized.

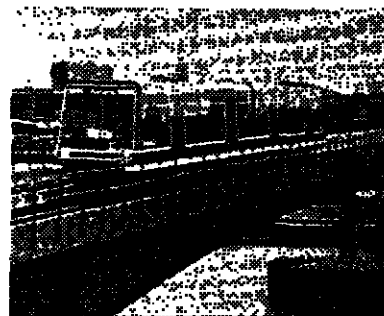
Today, the organization is sensitive to the outside world. With nearly 30 per cent of members working overseas and the rest served by a network of member associations throughout the UK, it would be odd if it were not.

Its major external concerns are:

- The impact of Europe, and especially 1992, on civil engineering standards;
- The demographic trends which mean a decline in available potential recruits in the years to come;
- International competition and contrasting national techniques of obtaining overseas work;
- The best ways of developing, extending and maintaining the UK network of infrastructure services;
- Ways in which construction industry workload can be saved from the economically disastrous peak-and-trough syndrome which has been so costly in recent years.

It would be easy to say that the changes within ICE are a dramatic metamorphosis from a tradition-based organization to a socially-aware one, but this would be oversimplifying.

Civil engineering has always been a concerned profession, with a vocational element among the rewards. Perhaps, with the passage of time, the dust of tradition settled on its high ideals. The purging of its headquarters seems symbolic of a determination that the future will be dust-free.



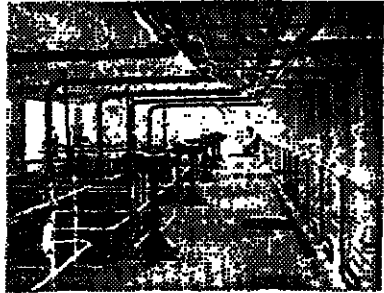
Light railways: changing face of transport



Channel Tunnel: project management and engineering



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The provision of good quality water supplies for urban and rural areas is an important aspect of the consultancy's work in water and public health engineering. The company is currently working for all ten of the water authorities and is involved in certifying the asset management plans of six of these prior to privatisation.

Urban regeneration is another national priority and the expertise of WS Atkins is being applied to many major projects. Two examples are the redevelopment of the Greenwich Peninsula on the River Thames involving environmental and ground engineering issues and the preparation of the infrastructure master plan for the continuing redevelopment of the Royal Naval Dockyard at Chatham.

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THE LAW

Safeguarding the right to strike

The TUC recently passed a resolution calling for the repeal of the Government's "anti-union legislation" and its replacement by a framework of industrial relations legislation which enshrines the right to strike including immunity in tort for trade unions. The Secretary of State for Employment, Norman Fowler, and the chairman of the Conservative Party, Kenneth Baker, both claimed that this amounted to an attempt by unions to "put themselves above the law", to be "exempt" from the law.

But is this really what the unions want? Public opinion polls show there is a great deal of sympathy for the unions, not least because of the legal armoury built up against them over the past 10 years. They claim to be simply seeking to redress a balance.

The question of "special legal privileges" for unions arises only because of the curious history of British strike law. There is not,

and never has been, a right to take or organize industrial action.

Many other European countries have such a right enshrined, not just in law, but in their constitutions. The right to strike is explicit in the 1961 Council of Europe Social Charter, to which Britain is a signatory. The United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO) provides an implicit right to strike in its 1949 Convention on Freedom of Association (the UK was a founding signatory). The right to strike is also explicit in the proposed EC Fundamental Charter of Social Rights.

By contrast, in Britain the freedom to take industrial action lawfully has been achieved by Acts of Parliament granting "immunities" to protect against "com-



mon law" liabilities. The "common law" is the law established by the judges over the years in hundreds of cases in which principles are created, refined and embellished. So these common law liabilities are not a fixed and defined set of laws. In industrial action law, the courts have created, and continue to create, new liabilities for unions.

The tort (civil wrong) of "intimidation" was "invented" in 1964 after a Heathrow Airport dispute. "Economic duress" arose in a 1982 flag-of-convenience case

Britain is out of step on workers' rights, John Hendy, QC, writes

against the International Transport Workers' Federation. The miners' strike gave rise to "unreasonable harassment" in 1984. And the Court of Appeal in the dockers' case in July held that there was arguably new liability for "inducing breach of a non-actionable statutory duty".

From 1906 to 1982 there has been a blanket immunity from all forms of tort liability for trade unions. This protected them from new judge-made liabilities. The immunity for individuals gave protection against specific torts

while acting "in contemplation of furtherance of a trade dispute". That gave rise to the problem that while the immunities were precisely defined by the words of the statute, the common law had no such limitations. Time and again new torts created by the courts sidestepped the existing immunities and required further legislative protection.

Legislation in the past 10 years has changed all that. The immunities have been so whittled down and hedged about that the right to strike barely exists in Britain

today. Indeed, in May the respected ILO Committee of Experts condemned the Government's legislation for the limitations it imposed.

The TUC, in seeking to restore that right, has opted to restore the traditional immunities. It could have proposed a positive Code of Rights relating to strikes. Alternatively, it could have sought to codify the so-called economic torts in a statute precluding common law additions. Both options are fraught with legal problems.

The restoration of the immunities is workable. The difficulty for the unions is the presentational problem identified by Fowler and Baker. The "immunities" are easily represented as "privileges" or "exemptions" putting the

unions "above the law". Yet the immunities are merely the mechanism by which basic trade union rights and freedoms are safeguarded. This is the point of elementary jurisprudence that the unions must get across if they are not to lose public sympathy.

Indeed, the unions can point out that it is the Government which seeks to be "above the law"; it refused to be bound by the ILO conventions which apply equally to fascist regimes, socialist states, the underdeveloped Third World and Western industrial nations. It stands alone in Europe against the charter of basic workers' rights.

Our laws are out of step with the world. The TUC proposals would restore the UK, in international terms, to being a law-abiding nation again.

● The author, a practising barrister, specializes in trade union law and is chairman of the Institute of Employment Rights. He writes in a personal capacity.

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THE LAW

Quicker European justice

Ami Barav and Frances Gibb on the role of a new court in Luxembourg

Next week a new first-tier European court comes into being: the Court of Justice of the European Communities in Luxembourg. The court comes about at the request of the Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC), which has been struggling with a steadily increasing workload.

The Court of Justice asked that provision for a new Court of First Instance be included when the Single European Act was drafted in 1985. And, in accordance with that act, which came into force in July 1987, the court submitted draft proposals to the Council of Ministers. The new Court of First Instance (CFI) will be inaugurated on Monday.

Two reasons prompted the Court of Justice to ask for the new court. First, it is a victim of its own success. The number of cases brought before it has been growing quickly. In 1970, there were 79 cases, with 64 judgements. In 1980, there were 279 cases and 132 judgements. Judgements were delivered, on average, between 13 and 19 months from registration.

But in 1988, 373 cases were registered, and it took the court 18 months to two years to give judgement. That year, 238 judgements were delivered. On June 30, 1989, 204 new applications were

introduced, and there are some 600 pending cases.

David Edward, QC, Salvesen professor of European Institutions at Edinburgh University and director of the Europa Institute there, has been appointed the UK judge. "The first practical thing the court will do is immediately reduce the number of cases coming to the Court of Justice," he says. "It has an enormous backlog; if nothing had been done, it was bound to get longer."

The new court will relieve the Court of Justice of such cases as competition law, which involve complex facts needing lengthy examination. The hearing of such cases has had to be fixed to enable judges to read the papers in the summer recess. IBM had to hire a warehouse to store all the papers in a recent case - settled before a full hearing - in which it was accused of abusing its dominant position in the market.

The idea was that a Court of First Instance could determine the facts conclusively, leaving the Court of Justice free to decide exclusively on points of law.

The Court of First Instance will have its own positive role: it is

hoped, Edward says, it will be able to deal with staff cases more thoroughly, and be a "consumer-orientated" tribunal which is more "user-friendly". At the same time, it will be a more efficient, effective tribunal in competition cases.

The court will have jurisdiction in two main areas, as well as certain cases arising under the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Coal and Steel Community. First, there will be disputes between the Community and its own officials or staff. These are small in terms of content, but represent between 20 and 25 per cent of the Court of Justice's workload.

Second, there will be actions for judicial review, and in some cases for compensation, brought against Community measures taken in implementation of competition rules applicable to undertakings. There are not many, but they take up considerable time.

The 12-member Court of First Instance will sit in chambers of three or five judges. In circumstances determined by the rules of procedure to be adopted, provision may be made for the



David Edward, QC: UK judge

to sit in plenary session.

The Council of Ministers has appointed Jose Luis da Cruz Vilaca, from Portugal, as the new court's first president. Vilaca, 44, is a professor of law at Coimbra University and at Lusitana University in Lisbon, and before Portugal joined the EC he was a member of Parliament, holding junior ministerial posts. From 1986 to 1988 he served as an advocate general at the European Court of Justice.

Appeal on a point of law against decisions of the Court of First Instance to the Court of Justice is available on grounds of lack of competence of the CFI, infringement of community law by the CFI and breach of procedure before it.

If the European Court allows the appeal, it may itself give final judgement or remit the case to the CFI, which will be bound by the European Court's decision on points of law.

The work of the Court of Justice will continue to grow: applications from the latest states to join the EC, Spain and Portugal, will increase. New litigation arising under the Single European Act and the measures enacted by EC institutions to complete the internal market by the end of 1992 will inevitably reach the court. In about a year, decisions against rulings of the new court will also start to be lodged.

The time may well come when the courts again have to consider their jurisdictions, with the possibility of devolving to the new court anti-dumping cases, as well as all references from state courts which now go to the Court of Justice for a ruling. This would free it to deal with the main constitutional cases.

But in the short term, the new court is certain to ease the workload problems, as well as making a positive contribution of its own to the European justice system.

Dr Barav is Reader in Law at the University of Essex.

INNS AND OUTS

Back to business

Just over 100 days after the massacre at Tiananmen Square, China is returning to "business as usual". Jingzhou Tao, a Chinese lawyer working at the Paris law firm Jeantet, says that lawyers were among the first to return after the violence. And as M. J. Tjoe, a Chinese lawyer working as a consultant to a Brussels law firm, suggests, "access to the Chinese market has not completely lost its allurements. The business communities in various countries have already invested large interests in the People's Republic of China." There is plenty of work for lawyers - some of the agreements made before the June crackdown are now being implemented, such as the one between a group of 48 British traders and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. But Tao believes lawyers are cautious about how much work there will be for them in future.

He points out that none of the actions of the Chinese government was illegal within the framework of Chinese law. "China did not take legal measures in order to change its open-door policy into a self-reliance strategy. There exists no legally justified threat of expropriation or non-performance of contractual obligations. Without intending to justify the government actions... China has acted within its legal system." Overall, Tjoe does not believe that the "vitality" of economic reforms in China has been affected.

Now that Moore Stephens has become the first accountancy firm to be given a licence to open an office in Poland, some law firms are eager to follow suit. The Polish Foreign Investment Agency has indicated that applications from lawyers would be welcome, but as a matter of policy accountancy firms have priority. The country desperately needs foreign investment, but its system of accounting is a major obstacle. The FIA hopes that foreign accountancy firms will be able to give advice on reforms. But any law firm which offers a deal that includes allowing Polish lawyers to spend time in its head office, or assists with intensive English courses, would almost certainly be invited to Warsaw for talks.

The recruitment crisis has brought out ingenuity in Lincoln's Inn firm Frere Cholmeley, which has resorted to the power of the spoken word and produced an audio-cassette for prospective article clerks. The tape begins with a few seconds of music, followed by: "Hello, I'm Cindy Selby, a radio journalist. The law firm Frere Cholmeley commissioned me to make a 17-minute tape about starting a career with them." There follows exactly 17 minutes of interviews with members of the firm, the aim being to convey the atmosphere and to explore topics such as: "Are lawyers at worst greedy sharks and at best merely boring?" Bruce Brody, managing partner for 27 years, thinks lawyers are no worse than any other group in society and points out that, in any event, article clerks will not only mix with other lawyers but also with clients. Brody cites bankers, property developers, representatives of foreign governments and the odd rock musician as typical clients. Will the tape persuade? Perhaps, but it ends very abruptly without so much as a goodbye from Selby and rather unhelpfully with no indication of the telephone number, address or contact partner.

The rigours of American bar exams are legend. But as one might expect in the United States, someone has turned them to profitable effect. John Gardiner Pieper, founder of the law crammers' Pieper Bar Review, based in Mineola, New York State, has made a good living from would-be attorneys. But Pieper takes his students' welfare seriously - so much so that he sits the bar exam with them. This year's attempt at the New York bar was his sixteenth sitting - he is already admitted in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, DC and Wyoming. Pieper likes to take two bars a year and run two marathons as a hobby.

Scrivener

Recruiters go for the gloss

Firms have polished their image, Edward Fennell writes

With the new academic year in sight, it is worth scanning the brochures used to lure undergraduates into law firms. Five years ago they were uniformly dull. Now they are uniformly undull. No camera angle has been left unturned, no photo montage has been overlooked and no cliché left unwritten in the grim-faced drive to appear smart.

To be fair, law firms in general have done a good job in reshaping their image to compete with accountants and merchant banks. But how effective are the new-style messages?

"I think that what impresses undergraduates is honesty," said Matthew Moore, who used to recruit for the M5 Group and now consults for John Hamilton Associates. "I think that many firms have gone over the top

producing glossies. They may look pretty, but they don't actually tell you much about the firm."

"In America at the moment there's a swing back away from 'the oversell' brochure to something more simple which has an emphasis on information rather than persuasion. I think we'll see the same trend here."

Anna Ponton, who runs legal recruitment for Peat Marwick McLintock, said: "It's really a matter of horses for courses. Different firms will be looking for different sorts of people because of the different kinds of work they do. What works for one may be completely wrong for another."

The brochure which impressed her most came from Stephenson Harwood. With only a handful of watercolour illustrations, it was the least glossy of all. But there

were two early pages of key facts on the firm. It was far from exciting, but it set out the essentials.

At the other end of the spectrum was McKenna's. Its brochure is extremely glossy and features a cross-section of article clerks at work and play. It also cleverly uses quotes from various sources (such as the House of Lords Official Report) to demonstrate that McKenna's makes the news.

But the photographs of macho-looking men playing hockey in the reception area didn't impress Ponton. "On the other hand, it is very well produced and through it McKenna's will certainly get their man," she says.

Another victim of unusual photographs is Frere Cholmeley. They look as if they have slipped in from the more abstract pages of



Getting the message: Anna Ponton checks the new-look brochures

Interiors. "I don't understand them at all," Ponton said. "They just don't seem to tie into the text in any way."

The brochure from the Mayfair firm Boodle Hatfield has an impressive cover, but the flair stops at the first page. "It's pretty standard and not very exciting, but I'm sure it works for the people the firm wants to attract," Ponton said.

The Norton Rose brochure offers the largest collection of platitudes ever gathered in one place (albeit very smoothly packaged). But it is all very reassuring: virtually no women and 25-year-old men looking 45. Of course, it's not really like that, is it?

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If you are interested in applying please telephone or write for an application form which should be completed and returned to The Personnel Department, Thames Television PLC, Teddington Lock, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 9NT. Tel: 01-877 3232 ext 2291 by Wednesday, 4th October 1989.

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A litigation solicitor with probably up to 3 years experience of patents, trademarks and copyright would be ideal for this substantial City practice that possesses a strong intellectual property department, where there exists excellent career opportunities.

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The department acts for property developers, both quoted and unquoted, and lending institutions. The department undertakes a broad range of work including the funding and development of major shopping and office developments and joint ventures.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Jobs in California

California has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, riding high on the so-called 'sunrise' industries. It also has a thriving legal profession, as one would expect, with an insatiable need for young commercial lawyers. The same problem has arisen, however, as confronts the profession in England: commercial lawyers are in short supply. Firms are becoming over-stretched by the relentless demands of their clients. Their staff, as here, are experiencing ever-greater pressures of work.

The Californian solution, in keeping with tradition, is to encourage immigration. Lawyers are attracted not only from other States, but increasingly from overseas. Japanese lawyers, for example, are brought in to handle the prodigious inward investments being

made by Japanese clients. The English legal profession has always been highly regarded, and English lawyers – particularly those qualified one-to-four years – are becoming increasingly sought-after.

We have established an affiliated office in California specifically to meet this need and would be pleased to hear from any lawyers wishing to work there. Salaries for those with the California Bar qualification are excellent, starting from \$65,000 or more and rising to around \$80,000 after two years and \$125,000 after five. Those who are unqualified, if successfully sponsored, can work locally as 'paralegals'.

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Michael Chambers

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The work is varied and demanding encompassing both major private and public company matters. Two current vacancies will suit solicitors, in the first place, of up to two years qualification and secondly those with five years post-qualification experience who will be expected to contribute towards the development of the department. The department also requires a Barrister/Solicitor/Accountant to specialise in taxation and further to develop this aspect of the practice. Our insolvency unit requires a further assistant of at least two years experience. In addition, the department is seeking a senior individual, capable of working largely unsupervised and having a quality following.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

This department has seen spectacular growth and continues to require assistance at every level. Much of the work involves acting for major property developers and suitable applicants will be commercially-orientated. In particular, the department seeks a senior conveyancer with several years experience and at least one further assistant solicitor.

In addition, the continued growth of our Litigation Department provides opportunities for energetic and highly able individuals, particularly those familiar with insurance and reinsurance matters.

If you are interested in becoming part of the DAC success story, please write in confidence to our Managing Partner, Nicholas Rochez, 12, Bridewell Place, London. EC4V 6AD or telephone him on 01-353 6555.

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BANKING City £35,000.00

One of the City's leading firms specialising in Banking Law is currently seeking an experienced Solicitor (ideally 3 to 4 years) either gained as an 'in house' lawyer or in private practice. Candidates will enjoy a high-profile position dealing with some interesting and major cases. Benefits are first class along with excellent prospects.

ENTERTAINMENT LAW London c. £30,000.00

Large Television Company is seeking an enthusiastic, ambitious young lawyer, with experience in Intellectual Property, Copyright, Commercial Contracts, etc. Working in the busy legal department you will enjoy a varied workload in Entertainment Law, including drafting of artists Contracts, Design and Patents, etc. Conditions and benefits are superb.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION Essex £20,000.00

A young Solicitor with good all-round litigation experience is sought by this well established Essex practice with a large criminal case load. The successful candidate will also deal with some general civil and advocacy work. Partnership prospects excellent.

COMMERCIAL LAW Bedfordshire £25,000.00

Progressive and rapidly expanding Bedfordshire practice, offering excellent benefits and career prospects is currently seeking a Solicitor, up to 4 years admitted to assist a busy Partner with a mixture of Commercial Law, including some large major clients. Full support and first class working conditions are offered.

For more details of these or any of the many more opportunities we currently have on our books contact Paul Staplehurst.

Tel: 01 236 4402

ASA House
6 Ludgate Square
London EC4M 7AS



Dublin Corporate and Tax Law

Our client is one of Ireland's premier law firms with an ever expanding European and International practice.

With the changes being brought about by 1992 and the opportunities across the Atlantic, the possibility to develop rapidly the firm's activities on a global scale is unique.

Good experienced corporate and tax lawyers are required to participate in the further growth of the firm. Our preference would be given to lawyers with Irish qualifications who meet the aforementioned requirements. Applications from experienced individuals from other common law jurisdictions are invited.

If you would be interested in a preliminary confidential chat, please telephone David J. Wilson at Law Placements on 01-353 5498 or write to him at Ludgate House, 107/111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.



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16 CARFELD COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 75-77 WYNDHAM STREET, HONG KONG. Tel: 5-243 8891
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A recently qualified lawyer, with a good grounding in articles and an aptitude for drafting, is required by a major Central London firm for its group specialising in non-contentious construction work. This is an excellent opportunity to become involved with this soundly based and expanding team.

Greater London

CO/COMMERCIAL c. £30,000

A company/commercial solicitor, admitted around three years, is sought by an established North London practice. Excellent prospects for the successful candidate.

Out of London

PROBATE/TRUST £ Attractive

A respected practice in a delightful West Country town has an urgent need for a probate/trust specialist. Applicants must have sound experience in this field and be able to develop the department. The prospects are excellent.

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A combination of high profile marketing led business strategy and outstanding management has established us in just three years as leaders in the highly competitive field of mortgage lending.

Now we are looking for a newly-qualified high-flying Solicitor eager to take advantage of the benefits of a company experiencing unprecedented growth.

Working as the No. 2 to the Company's Legal Advisor, who manages a small, dedicated legal team, you will be involved in a broad spectrum of legal matters affecting the company, including company, commercial and property law. You will also advise on legislative changes affecting the Financial Services market and be involved with in depth project work.

Your ability to communicate well at all levels will be as important as a genuine desire to broaden your experience in a competitive, fast-moving environment.

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Applied Management Sciences

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

BRIGHTON Y.M.C.A.

Chief Executive & Company Secretary
Salary from £18,403, plus car Grade 'E'

The Brighton Y.M.C.A. comprises three Hostels, giving accommodation to 240 residents, most of whom are in need of special care. It is a registered charity and housing association.

A Chief Executive and Company Secretary is required who, as Chief Officer will:

1. assist the Management Committee in policy formulation;
2. exercise day-to-day control over all the Brighton Y.M.C.A.'s affairs;
3. create and develop new opportunities and initiatives, especially as needed during the present period of change in housing provision;
4. maintain effective contacts with the Housing Corporation, local authorities and local representatives of other Housing Associations, Probation Service and Social Services.

Brighton Y.M.C.A. is an equal opportunities employer.

The successful candidate will have experience of the management of housing association work; personal commitment to the provision of housing for those in great and special need. Applicants would be expected to be in sympathy with the Christian aims and purposes of the Brighton Y.M.C.A.

Further details from Chief Executive & Company Secretary at the address below.

William Collier,
Chief Executive & Company Secretary,
Brighton Y.M.C.A.,
Stelms House, Old Stelms,
Brighton, BN1 1NX.

The Closing Date for completed application forms and CV's is
Saturday, 14th October, 1989.

Wirral Family
Practitioner Committee
General Manager

£28,300 (PRP) & Lease Car

This is a new opportunity and challenge to manage and develop the primary health care on Wirral which is delivered by Family Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians.

You will work closely with the F.P.C. Chairman and be responsible to him for providing effective leadership and management, for the control of a multi-million pound budget, planning future services and implementing policies resulting from the Government White Papers "Promoting Better Health" and "Working for Patients" and the introduction of the new G.P. Contract.

Candidates should have a minimum of eight years' experience at a senior level in a large

organisation, possess relevant qualifications and be able to demonstrate a record which includes successful innovation and management of change. Excellent communication, presentational and interpersonal skills are essential.

A salary of £28,300 with the opportunity of PRP will be paid together with the option of a lease car and possible relocation package.

For information pack please contact
Personnel Department, Mersey Regional Health Authority, Hamilton House,
24 Pall Mall, Liverpool, L3 6AL. Telephone:
051 236 4620 ext. 2115. Closing date:
13th October 1989.

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South Glamorgan County Council

OUR COUNCIL NEED YOU!

GROUND MAINTENANCE
MANAGER

PO3:£16,743 - £18,225 p.a.

South Glamorgan County Council needs a top class manager to spearhead a dynamic Grounds Maintenance Unit which will be competing for a variety of contracts from 1991. Already well established and with a proven track record the existing DLO needs to be developed into a competitive body offering a first class service to its existing customers and an attractive package to new customers.

ARE YOU THE PERSON TO DO IT?

You do, of course, have experience in all aspects of ground maintenance, not necessarily in the Public Sector, and are familiar with sound working procedures. But what separates you from the other is your keen organisational ability and commitment to the provision of a first class service which you will be capable of developing from initial definition to contract performance. You may have desirable qualifications either in management or horticulture but of equal value will be your proven managerial skills. Knowledge of new technology, whether hardware or software will also be an advantage as the County Council is prepared to provide the best technological support available to the right person.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Good question! There is, of course, the salary package commensurate with this important role, in addition to an essential car user allowance. But also, there is an attractive relocation package, an opportunity to participate in the Authority's car leasing scheme and the chance to work in the new County Hall, a prestigious development offering optimum working conditions and a wide range of social facilities.

Add to this the opportunity to work in one of the most attractive areas in the Country and you can see that this may well be the post you've been looking for.

INTERESTED?

Then contact Peter Morteo on (0222) 872767 for an informal chat or write to the Personnel and Management Services Officer for an application form quoting reference GM/DSO/1.

Applications are welcomed from suitably qualified and/or experienced people regardless of their sex, marital status, race, religion, colour or disability. Nursery facilities at County Hall (subject to availability).

Application forms available from the Personnel and Management Services Officer, South Glamorgan County Council, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF1 5UW.

Closing Date: September 25, 1989.
Please quote Job Ref.

CRIME
concern

Three senior appointments with Crime Concern:

Crime Prevention Consultant (two posts) to set up and support crime prevention programmes in towns and cities across the country. Experience of researching or managing crime prevention programmes would be an advantage. Location to be agreed.

SALARY £18,000 - £20,000 pa + car + benefits (depending on experience)

Youth Campaign Co-ordinator to promote a national programme of youth projects and set these up in areas where Crime Concern is working. Wide experience with young people (youth work, social work and education) essential. Location to be agreed.

SALARY £18,000 - £18,000 pa + car + benefits (depending on experience)

Crime Concern was launched last year to help meet the challenge of crime. A registered charity, its job is to develop effective local crime prevention activity across the country. Crime Concern works closely with the police, local government and the business sector.

Candidates for these posts will be highly motivated, have excellent communication skills, be able to work and negotiate at senior level and be achievers. Secondaries welcome.

Closing date for applications: 30 September. Application forms and further information from:

Jon Bright
CRIME CONCERN
Level 8, David Murray John Building
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Tel: (0753) 514586

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MANAGER

York Gardens Community Centre

£15,816-£17,394 pa inc

The Centre is situated in Battersea, in a multi-cultural neighbourhood. The centre caters for a wide range of people and hosts a one O'Clock centre, African dance group, pensioners' club, martial arts group, latchkey scheme, etc.

You must be an experienced and committed centre manager with sound administrative and organisational skills and the ability to be responsible for the centre's budget.

The Centre is open Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 11 pm. You will be expected to work in accordance with the shift system, sharing the duties with your two Assistant Managers. This will involve a 35-hour week to include one Saturday in three.

Application forms from Leisure & Amenity Services Personnel Section, Town Hall, London, SW18 2PU. Telephone 01-871 7795. Please quote ref: LA/1894

Closing date: September 29, 1989

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All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disability, race, sex or marital status.

MANAGEMENT



LEOMINSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Salary - up to £32,451 per annum
(Pay Award Pending) Plus Election Fees

The present Chief Executive is to retire on 31st January 1990 and the Council wishes to replace him with a dedicated and energetic local government Solicitor.

The appointee will need to be a person with proven management experience to motivate and lead the staff with enthusiasm, sensitivity and initiative. He/she should have vision and skill to implement improvements in the workings of the Council, be able to manage change and achieve results, communicate effectively with elected Members and provide a major contribution to the Community.

The Council's expectations of the person appointed are high but, for the successful candidate, the rewards, materially, in job satisfaction and in working in a delightful and unspoilt corner of England, are also high.

A substantial salary is on offer or, as an alternative, a fixed term contract of five years could be negotiated. There is also a useful recruitment package.

If you wish to know more, do ring the present Chief Executive, G.A. Robson, on (0568) 611100.

FURTHER DETAILS and an application form may be obtained from the undersigned at GRANGE HOUSE, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE HR6 8NP to whom applications should be returned by NOON on 12th OCTOBER 1989.

G.A. ROBSON Chief Executive.

CYNON VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF CWM CYNON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Salary up to £34,194
(Pay award pending).

Cynon Valley, which is a Borough of some 65,000 persons in Mid Glamorgan, wish to appoint a successor to their present Chief Executive, Mr G W Hosgood, who is retiring at the end of the year.

The successful applicant will possess a suitable professional qualification and have good experience at a senior level in an appropriate field, and will have demonstrated those qualities of good management, leadership, innovation and flexibility essential to lead the Council's service during the coming years of challenge to local government.

Full details of the post and application form are available from the undersigned and Geoff Hosgood would be pleased to discuss the post informally with you on:

Aberdare (0685) 878888

The closing date for applications will be
9th October, 1989

N Stonelake, Director of Administration,
Rock Grounds, High Street, Aberdare,
Cynon Valley, Mid Glamorgan CF44 7AE.

NEWARK & SHERWOOD
DISTRICT COUNCILDEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT AND
PLANNING

SALARY - £19,400 TO £21,300
(PAY AWARD PENDING)

Do you have what it takes to fill this key role in managing a multi-disciplinary Department in a large, varied and attractive District facing rapidly-growing development pressures? The appointed candidate will have a positive attitude and a proven record of managerial success at a senior level in his/her present field (which need not necessarily be planning) with an enthusiasm for meeting new challenges. We have an open mind on the question of appropriate qualifications, although the successful applicant will need to have a background in a development related profession and will most likely have at some time worked at a senior level in the public service sector.

The functions of the Department include Development and Planning, Architectural/Quantity Surveying, Engineering and Building Control. The post involves deputising for the Director in all of these functions, but most dominantly on the Planning side, as well as playing a vital role in the management of the Department and the Authority at large.

The Newark and Sherwood area offers an agreeable life-style. The District comprises 255 square miles, Newark itself being an historic and pleasant market town situated close to the A1, having good rail communications with London (under 1 hour) and the North, and major regional shopping facilities close at hand at Nottingham and Lincoln. The Council's Departments are situated in Kelham Hall, a Grade II listed Victorian mansion set in peaceful and pleasant parkland, 3 miles west of Newark.

The Council offers:-

- Generous Relocation Allowance
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- Excellent canteen and recreational facilities
- Generous leave entitlement
- Flexible working hours

Applications forms and further details can be obtained from the Personnel Section, Kelham Hall, Newark, Notts, NG23 5XQ, telephone (0636) 708307, to be returned by Friday 29th September, 1989.

Please ring Mr Colin Williamson, Director of Development and Planning, on (0636) 605111 extension 350 if you would like a chat about this post.

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Move Forward with the North

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Central to our development plans is the appointment of a number of key personnel capable of responding to the challenges and the opportunities presented by our expansion, and ready to discover the unique quality of life enjoyed by those who live and work in the North.

To assist with a fast-growing workload, and to further the department's development, we require a newly qualified Assistant Solicitor capable of supporting and contributing to a busy department. Salary commensurate with experience and ability.

Long established as one of the country's leading provincial firms in this field, we are seeking two 1 or 2 year qualified Assistant Solicitors capable of playing a full part in a strong team. Salary commensurate with experience and ability.

The regeneration of the Northern economy provides unlimited opportunities for the development of company commercial work. We need an experienced Assistant Solicitor, up to 2 years qualified, to join this rapidly growing department. Salary commensurate with experience and ability.

With a growing number of clients including major house-builders, developers and public authorities, our expanding conveyancing department needs two newly admitted or up to 2 years qualified solicitors. Salary commensurate with experience and ability.

Applications for any of the above positions should be made in writing with full CV to R M Campbell, Ingledew Botterell, Milburn House, Dean Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1NF.

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Assistant Planner

Up to £15,592

Performance Related Pay of up to 12%

With the construction of the Channel Tunnel significant changes are taking place in Kent - none more so than within the area of Shepway.

With change comes challenge: the challenge of getting the best from new development, achieving harmony with historic towns and villages and preserving the distinctive landscape which includes Romney Marsh and tracts of the North Downs.

To meet this challenge we require a determined and enthusiastic professional to join our planning team.

The vacancy is within the Strategy Section although the successful candidate will be given the opportunity to gain experience in other planning related areas. Applicants should hold a degree or Diploma in Town Planning though applicants will be considered from graduates in related disciplines.

Starting salary will be dependant upon qualifications and experience.

A comprehensive information package is available from the Personnel/Management Services Officer, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY. Tel: (0303) 850388 Ext. 210 or Ext. 212 quoting Ref. No. T64.

Closing date for completed applications is Monday 9th October 1989.

We are an equal opportunities employer

SHEPWAY
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

HORIZONS

Perfect for clockwatchers

Cheap quartz watches are no longer a novelty and, along with the revival of interest in traditional, craftsman-made products, there is a resurgence of interest in mechanical clocks and watches made, restored and repaired by horologists.

Horology demands great patience, manual dexterity and a love of delicate work. "You need complete and utter dedication," says Geoffrey Evans, secretary of the British Horological Institute (BHI). "If you're not dedicated, the work can drive you mad with frustration — it's so exacting."

Simon Michlmayr, son of an Austrian clockmaker, agrees. "Yes, clocks can make you tear your hair out sometimes." He specializes in the restoration of antique clocks, but also offers a general horological service — the repair and sale of watches, clocks and jewellery. "I believe that to give good service, you have to be prepared to do all types of work," he says. "But, given the choice, I'd always pick an antique clock to work on because of the quality of the original workmanship."

When he restores an antique clock Michlmayr may make new parts, such as wheels or pinions (small gearwheels) or escapements (regulators of driving power to the hands), but he tries to maintain the authenticity of a piece by repairing, rather than replacing, components. "For instance, if a pinion is badly worn but it's possible to adjust it, rather than replace it, I'll do so — because then I'm still using part of the original."

Horology is just the job for those who like to keep an eye on the clock and delight in intricate tasks, says Helen Steadman

There are different schools of thought on the extent to which antique clocks should be repaired. Pure conservationists believe that an absolute minimum of work should be done. Their aim is to prevent further deterioration — at the expense of the accurate working of the clock, if necessary. However, the public want timepieces which work, so, like Michlmayr, most commercial horologists restore rather than conserve. Here again, there are differences of opinion on the methods. "It's a complex subject, and it boils down to what you expect from a clock," says Michlmayr. "I feel I have to make the clock work, but I do it in such a way that you can't tell that parts have been repaired or replaced."

Working on antique clocks is only one aspect of horology. Most day-to-day tasks involve repairing modern mechanical and electrical timepieces. Quartz products cannot be repaired in a conventional sense; horologists use electronic equipment to diagnose faults, then fit replacement modules. However, past fears that quartz would deal a death-blow to the repair trade have proved unfounded — there is still a substantial demand for repairs because of the reawakened interest in mechanical clocks and watches.

The three main branches of the clock and watch business are servicing and repair, restoration, and

conservation. Straightforward repairs and servicing, often on items of no great value, is the bread and butter. The jam — the more intricate work — is almost entirely confined to museums: there are probably only 20 or 30 full-time conservationists in the country.

Making clocks and watches, which is carried out on a small scale in this country, offers relatively few employment opportunities. Michlmayr has recently made his first venture into manufacturing, spending many hours constructing the movement of a grandfather clock. But this is a sideline and few companies survive on manufacturing alone. Horological training, however, does teach students how to design and build a clock from scratch, making every component by hand. Michlmayr learnt these techniques by making a carriage clock with a marine chronometer escapement — an extremely accurate timekeeper.

Michlmayr trained for more than two years at Hackney College in London and also took a six-month advanced watchmaking course in Switzerland under the Watchmakers' of Switzerland Training and Education Programme. In the UK, other full-time vocational courses are run by Birmingham Polytechnic, Central Manchester College and Barmuloch College in Glasgow. Because there are so few

full-time courses available, many horologists take part-time courses or the correspondence course offered (on a non-profit-making basis) by the British Horological Institute. Basic courses in horology are also offered at three colleges for the disabled — St. Loe's (Exeter), Imchale (Durham) and Portland (Mansfield) — and the BHI qualifications completed by correspondence. No particular academic entry qualifications are required for a career in horology, but good eyesight and evidence of mechanical aptitude are important. GCSEs or the equivalent in maths, physics and CDT (craft, design and technology) are also useful.

Like Michlmayr, the majority of horologists are self-employed. Some set up their businesses at home, providing a service for jewellers' shops, antique dealers and/or the general public. Start-up costs need not be high for home-based workers — essential equipment costs about £1,500 — although a craftsman could easily spend £10,000 equipping a workshop.

As well as formal training, Michlmayr believes that a young person needs two or three years' experience at the work-bench before venturing into self-employment. "I'm lucky, because I had my father to train me. If I'd come straight out of college and tried to start my own business I don't

think I could have succeeded. It would have taken so long to do each job that it wouldn't have been economic."

Evans says college-leavers should spend at least three years working for other people before venturing out on their own. "Their rough edges need to be refined and polished." College-leavers are likely to find employment in small repair workshops where they can gain sufficient experience to set up their own businesses later on, he says.

Not all entrants to the trade are young people. Horology is a compelling hobby and is often taken up professionally in later life by those who have pursued an amateur interest. "Students are getting older," according to Evans. "Since the recession, there's been a trend for mature people — including those from managerial professions — to move into horology. It's a fascinating subject and many people who've taken it up are enthusiasts who've developed their interest while they were working in other occupations."

It is the skilled craftsmanship of early clockmakers which attracts enthusiasts. They would probably echo Michlmayr's view that "the early clockmakers were innovators in their time. They didn't have electricity, they didn't have good quality materials — yet they made fantastic clocks which are superbly finished and keep tremendous time."

Further information is available from the British Horological Institute, 100, Upper Street, London, N1 1PD. Tel: 01-253 8137/5/6.



Clacking on: Simon Michlmayr has a soft spot for antique timepieces

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

Assistant DIRECTOR of HOUSING

£27,165 - £29,709
+ new benefits package

Working in Housing presents very few soft options, this post is no exception. What is exceptional about Brent is the level of commitment here and our determination to address the problems head on.

Innovative policies have been pursued and they have succeeded. We have achieved impressive reductions in the number of people living in bed and breakfast accommodation. We are taking positive steps towards communication and liaison with tenants groups. We have maintained levels of service in the face of uncertainty, controversy and declining resources.

But many problems and challenges remain — and changes in legislation put the onus on us to compete for services. We need our new Assistant Director to come prepared for the problems as well as the success stories. More than this we want you to take the lead in confronting the issues and getting something done about them.

Action is the key, we want a doer, someone who can come up with solutions and implement them fully. Tough, resilient, thriving in this sort of intense environment. There are specific tasks — the issues of Rent Arrears will be a major responsibility. Building strong, enduring and effective tenant relations will also form part of your brief. Your wealth of experience in Housing should equip you for the role and your forward thinking, practical approach will ensure results.

This is no easy task. But it could be the making of a career. Application forms and full details from: The Personnel Division, 5th Floor, Room 522, Brent House, High Road, Wembley, Middx. Tel: 01-903 0371 (24 hr answerphone). Returnable by 6th October 1989. Please quote reference H/1135 when applying.

Brent THE equal opportunity employer welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Job sharers welcome.

London Borough of
BRENT

NEWHAM COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE BURSAR

to be responsible for the financial affairs of the College.

Applications are invited from men and women for the post of Bursar to take office on 1 February 1990 or as soon after as possible.

Substantial experience of positive financial management essential.

Further particulars from the Principal, Newham College, Cambridge, CB3 9DF to whom applications, including CV and details of three professional referees, should be sent by 14 October 1989.

PUBLIC FINANCE

BARNET FINANCE: AUDIT AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY DIVISION

In response to the requirements of current legislation and our view of the future role for what was previously our internal audit division, we have restructured to create the environment necessary to undertake internal audit and financial consultancy. The provision of a business plan and strategic advice for the new division emphasises our commitment to a competitive group providing a systems evaluation and advisory service, value for money audits, performance review and financial advice and training services in tandem with the traditional probity function. We are now looking for a dynamic and experienced individual to lead and vision to implement the new policy. If it's just the old style internal audit that interests you — don't bother to apply.

The Division also provides the internal audit service for the Metropolitan Area Protection Service and has been awarded a three year contract for the internal audit of the Metropolitan Police. Qualified accountants required are:

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Qualified AAT required are:

Senior Finance Advisor (Audit & Systems)

Salary: £12,504-£15,518 p.a. inc. plus essential user car allowance (Ref: 615C/542)

Finance Advisor (Audit and Systems)

Salary: £8,504-£12,135 p.a. inc. plus essential user car allowance (Ref: 615C/543)

Audit Assistants

Salary: £5,415-£10,650 p.a. inc. (Ref: 615C/544)

Based in modern offices in Hendon, our benefits include flexible working hours, staff restaurant, generous leave entitlement and interest-free car loans, or subsidised leased car for essential users. Closing date: 29 September 1989. Head Office: Telephone 01-222 8282 and fax to Brent House on ext. 2522 or Barry Austin on ext. 2214.

CANT WAIT TO APPLY? Application forms from the Recruitment Officer, 16/17 Sentinel Square, Hendon, London N4 3BA, Tel: 01-222 8282 (outside working hours). (01-222 8282 outside working hours).

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Phone inquiries may be directed to Mr Watt on telephone (02) 224 0888 or by facsimile (02) 233 7195.

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Coe is setting out on a rarely travelled route



The transition from a sporting career to a political one has been successfully made by very few. As Sebastian Coe limbers up for the parliamentary race, Christopher Chataway (left), the former 5,000 metres world record holder who went on to become a Conservative minister, talks to Alan Franks

The corridors of power may not be oval in pattern, but Sebastian Coe seems certain to secure an inside track in his chosen new long-distance event, politics. Coe, who announced last Thursday that he would retire from athletics after the Commonwealth Games in January, and who ran in his last domestic meeting at Crystal Palace the next day, has been hotly courted by the Conservative Party, and the wooting is mutual. Those who attended his press conference last week reported that his delivery bore the hallmarks not of a retirement speech but of a maiden effort in the Commons.

At the weekend he visited Falmouth, where he is one of 36 would-be candidates to replace David Mudd as MP. Later this month, at the Conservative Party conference, he is expected to deliver a speech on the environment. In the subsequent months, the middle distance so to speak, few of his friends would be surprised to see him earmarked by Conservative Central Office for an eminently winnable seat.

While many sportsmen go on to distinguish themselves in other fields, there are few precedents for success in the transition from the track to the back benches. The most notable is Christopher Chataway, one of Roger Bannister's two crucial running mates in the breaking of the four-minute barrier for the mile in 1954; the limited parallels between his experience and Coe's story so far are instructive.

"The difference between then and now is that you are typecast," Chataway, aged 58 and long out of Parliament, says. "Today, it seems to me that if you have been very well known as a sportsman it is hard for people to see you in a different way. In terms of political ambition, it may help you to be interviewed and selected, but not necessarily to be taken seriously beyond a certain point."

Chataway concedes that the four-minute fame gave him something of a wind-assisted start, but believes that his will and determination would have enabled him to break through in due course. In athletics, he was never in the same class, but in his political career he

was fully half a lap ahead at the age that Coe is now, coming up to 33.

"I had been an MP for four years, and junior minister at the Department of Education for two. What I had done was to work for television, first at ITN, then at the BBC. But as a political and current affairs reporter, so I suppose I eased my transition into politics that way. For me the difficult part was to start as anything other than a sports reporter."

Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, is only one year older than Coe, and right at the head of his field of contemporaries. But, although Moynihan was a silver medal winner at the 1980 Moscow Games (the first of Coe's two triumphant Olympics), his sporting attainments were hardly of the same order. Paradoxically, it is Coe's very longevity at the top of his sport that could come to hamper him as he struggles to reinvent his public and party image.

However, it could be argued that he is already a political animal, having been, in his student days, president of the Loughborough University Conservative Association and, a decade later, vice-chairman of the Sports Council and a member of the Health Education Authority.

As long ago as 1981, at the Baden-Baden conference of the International Olympic Committee, Coe delivered a most mature denunciation of the use of drugs by sportsmen.

Chataway is convinced that anyone wanting to make a mark in Parliament must have won a seat by the age of 40. This he achieved, in Lewisham North, with 12 years to spare. By the time his 15-year Parliamentary career came to an end, in September 1974, he was only three years past that critical age.

Coe, clean and classless, is no less a man of his party than were those Oxbridge heroes of yesteryear, and this bodes well for him. "Today the Commons is far more open than it was even 25 years ago," Chataway says. "So, too, is the Tory party. Both have become more accessible institutions. When I entered, the place was far more conventional and

public school. Nowadays there would be fewer people looking down their noses at you because you've had the nerve to be famous for your running."

This seems to indicate a contradiction. If this is an age in which the specialist holds sway, how can it be that an all-rounder is more tolerated now than before? "In the end, the only thing that matters is whether you are prepared to work very hard and start at the bottom," Chataway says, "to learn something completely new and not to use the easy tricks too often."

Easy tricks? "Yes, there are lots and lots of temptations to use your sporting past for electoral purposes. It really is far better to make an absolutely clean break. After I had been in Parliament for some years I was offered Minister of Sport, but I said no."

"I am sure that in the next few years Coe will not have insuperable difficulties in getting a good seat. I admired him enormously as an athlete and am sure he'll do well as a politician. In anyone's list he would have to be in the 12 all-time great middle-distance runners, ranking with Kuts, Zatopek, Nurmi, any of them."

Chataway remarks that Bannister was like him, in that he made a clean break from the sport. And yet, did not the world's four-minute mile eventually become chairman of the Sports Council? "Ah, yes, but not before he had devoted himself to being taken seriously as a doctor, and becoming accepted in his own right as a neurologist."

It is someone who remained in sport, mainly as a writer and broadcaster, whose attainments Chataway holds in highest regard. "Chris [Brasher] stayed with it, didn't he? That London Marathon. You know, that's a most fantastic achievement."

If it is possible to run a race against members of a different generation, then Chataway the politician is showing Coe the politician a clean pair of heels. But Coe has always been at his most lethal when coming from behind, preparing to kick.



Eagle's ascent: Jackson's catch gives Philadelphia victory

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Cunningham has the final word as Eagles take off

By Robert Kirby

The man who passed last, passed best in Washington on Sunday. Rypien, of the host Redskins, completed four touchdowns passes, but Cunningham, of the Philadelphia Eagles, completed five, including a four-yarder to Jackson with less than a minute remaining, as the Eagles beat the Redskins 42-37 in the National Football League.

Hopkins returned a fumble 77 yards to set up Cunningham's winning toss. The Eagles converted six turnovers into three touchdowns while recovering from a 20-point deficit.

Anderson rushed for two touchdowns and caught a 24-yard scoring pass as the Chicago Bears pummeled the Minnesota Vikings 38-7. The Bears intercepted Wilson four times.

Montana scored on a four-yard run with 40 seconds remaining to lead the San Francisco 49ers to a 20-16 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The Buccaneers had taken a 16-15 lead on Carrier's 18-yard scoring reception with three minutes left.

Majkowski's third touchdown pass, a three-yarder to Sharpe with 56sec left, gave the Green Bay Packers a 35-34 decision over the New Orleans Saints. The Saints had lost a 21-0 lead.

Marino completed three first-half touchdowns passes to attain the 200-touchdown mark in record time as the Miami Dolphins defeated the New England Patriots. Marino, who hit on 17 of 28 passes for 226 yards, required 89 yards to reach 200 touchdowns. Johnny Unitas had held the record, reaching 200 touchdowns in 121 games.

Okoye rushed for two touchdowns (eight yards and one yard) as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Los Angeles Raiders 24-19 in a penalty-filled game.

McMahon, formerly of the Bears, passed for a career-best 389 yards, but the San Diego Chargers were defeated by the Houston Oilers.

Washington's Cleveland 20, NY Jets 24; Atlanta 27, Dallas 27; Kansas City 24, LA Raiders 19; Dallas 24, New England 19; Green Bay 35, New Orleans 34; Philadelphia 42, Washington 37; Cincinnati 41, Pittsburgh 10; NY Giants 34, Detroit 14; Phoenix 34, Seattle 24; Chicago 35, Minnesota 7; Houston 34, San Diego 27; Minnesota 21, New York Giants 17; San Francisco 20, Tampa Bay 16.

American Football League Standings

Team	W	L	D	Pct.	PP	PA
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	27	34
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	27	37
New England	1	0	0	1.000	27	37
NY Jets	1	0	0	1.000	27	37
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	27	37
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	27	37
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	34	24
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	34	24
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	34	24
Houston	0	1	0	.000	34	24
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	34	24
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	34	24
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Cumbrian Waltzer suited by conditions

By Mandarin

Cumbrian Waltzer can follow up his course and distance win earlier this month, and record his third in total, by taking the Willow Claiming Stakes at Sandown Park this afternoon. He is a top favourite.

Last time Peter Esterby's four-year-old beat Nikki Dow by a hard-fought half a length and he should confirm the form today on better terms. Indeed the claiming race format, in which the winner effectively handicaps his rivals by setting the claiming price, suits Cumbrian Waltzer well.

He is generally better off under these race conditions than in handicaps, and the opposition is not usually as fierce.

That said, he faces another greater danger in a nominated runner here in Bel Byou. Paul Cole's charge is useful at his best but this minimum trip, even on a stiff course, may be too sharp for him.

Halstead's win at Salisbury 12 days ago suggested Geoff Wragg's team is returning to form after suffering a disappointing spell because many of them have been running temperatures. She made all to beat Marchman that day and the resolution she showed indicates can follow up in the East End Handicap.

There is little between Liffey Reef and Onal Evidence on

Haydock claiming race form earlier this month but as a greater danger in a nominated runner here in Bel Byou. Paul Cole's charge is useful at his best but this minimum trip, even on a stiff course, may be too sharp for him.

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Nashwan home in good health

By Christopher Goulding

Nashwan, who lost his unbeaten record of six victories in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on Sunday, has returned to the West Herts stables of Dick Hern in good health.

Hern remains mystified by the colt's defeat. "He seems fine and has only lost 6lb in weight," he said yesterday. "On reflection I wonder if the ground was too deep for him to quicken up."

"He does not have a temperature and appears to be in good health and well in himself. We will have him blood tested."

Angus Gold, the racing manager at Hamlyn Al-Makdum, has yet to finalise the colt's future.

Cox pledges quick action on ground

By George Rae

Don Cox, the racecourse manager at Doncaster, yesterday gave an assurance that all remedial work required on the track would be undertaken whenever the code is required.

"We are already musing much of the equipment required," Cox said, "although what is involved will not be known precisely until Mr Souter's written report arrives tomorrow."

John Souter is the drainage expert who is to assess the reasons behind the subsidence which led ultimately to the cancellation of the St Leger last weekend and its subsequent move to Ayr on Saturday.

There is no question that Mr Souter's recommendations, Cox continued. "Several of his staff are expected at the course over the next couple of days and they will oversee the alterations."

Mr Souter was not here himself today but we have had a Jockey Club delegation led by Charles Weatherly looking at the track.

In London the Jockey Club stewards received a preliminary account of the events of last week's St Leger fixture. The meeting, in the presence of five stewards, was led by Lord Harrington, the senior steward.

This was very much a case of setting the record straight. David Pipe, the Jockey Club spokesman, said: "Basically it was a verbal presentation by Jockey Club officials at the meeting updating the stewards at Doncaster on the situation. No technical evidence was taken at the meeting."

"The stewards then discussed the situation and its ramifications."

Jockeys may sue Doncaster

Faith Cook and Ian Johnson are considering taking action against Doncaster following injuries received in a pile-up in the Tote-Portland Handicap at the course last Wednesday. Cook received various injuries while Johnson was deemed to be concussed.

Solicitor Matthew McCloy, acting on behalf of Cook and Johnson, said yesterday: "We are looking at the possibility of taking action for negligence against Doncaster racecourse. But it is early days yet."

There is no question that Mr Souter's recommendations, Cox continued. "Several of his staff are expected at the course over the next couple of days and they will oversee the alterations."

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SANDOWN PARK

By Mandarin

2.00 Coochany. 2.30 Surpassing. 3.05 Halstead. 3.40 Jadeite. 4.10 Elmsmull. 4.45 CUMBRIAN WALTZER (nap). 5.15 Make Contact.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Miss Fee Fee. 2.30 FLAMING GLOVEY (nap). 3.05 Halstead. 3.40 Switch On. 4.10 Newmarket Hope. 4.45 Nikki Dow. 5.15 Briggscare.

Michael Seely's selection: 4.10 Elmsmull.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 ELMAAMUL.

Going: good. Draw: 5f, high numbers best.

2.05 HEATHER MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,400; 5f) (10 runners)

101 (8)	BARRETTIER 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
102 (9)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
103 (10)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
104 (1)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
105 (2)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
106 (3)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
107 (4)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
108 (5)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
109 (6)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
110 (7)	BEHINDA 10 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

2.30 AUDI SPORT TROPHY NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £2,422; 1m 1f) (13 runners)

201 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
202 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
203 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
204 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
205 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
206 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
207 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
208 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
209 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
210 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

3.55 EASI BIND PERFECT PRESENTATION FILLES HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

301 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
302 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
303 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
304 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
305 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
306 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
307 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
308 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
309 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
310 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

4.45 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

401 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
402 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
403 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
404 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
405 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
406 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
407 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
408 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
409 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
410 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

5.15 ALTAIR LAMBERT HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

501 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
502 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
503 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
504 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
505 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
506 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
507 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
508 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
509 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
510 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

5.45 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

601 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
602 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
603 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
604 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
605 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
606 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
607 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
608 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
609 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
610 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

6.15 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

701 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
702 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
703 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
704 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
705 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
706 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
707 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
708 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
709 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
710 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

6.45 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

801 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
802 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
803 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
804 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
805 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
806 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
807 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
808 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
809 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
810 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

7.15 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

901 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
902 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
903 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
904 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
905 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
906 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
907 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
908 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
909 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
910 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

7.45 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

1001 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
1002 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
1003 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1004 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1005 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1006 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1007 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1008 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1009 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1010 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

8.15 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

1101 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
1102 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
1103 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1104 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1105 (2)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1106 (3)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1107 (4)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1108 (5)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1109 (6)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1110 (7)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96

BETTING: 7-4 Coochany, 7-2 Jadeite, 5-1 Nikki Dow, 5-1 Elmsmull, 5-1 others.

1989: KOWALKA 8-9 T (11-5 fav) W O'Grady 12 ran

FORM: MASTER PIERRE, good field in a previously lost race, good to firm.

8.45 MOUNTAIN BLUESIDE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,519; 1m) (12 runners)

1201 (8)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	B Rouse	77
1202 (9)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	T Williams	77
1203 (10)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G Stokely) D Wilson 9-0	A Mackay	96
1204 (1)	FLAMING GLOVEY 12 (G St		

Torrance putter's £20,000 cup offer

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Sam Torrance has been given a £20,000 incentive to match his feat of 1985 by once more holding the winning putt in the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup, which starts at The Belfry on Friday.

The Wilson sporting goods company will provide Torrance with a £20,000 bonus if he sinks the putt on Sunday afternoon to secure a third successive win for Europe against the United States.

Four years ago, Torrance stood on the 18th green, arms raised high in the air, after coaxing the ball in from 18 feet to overcome Andy North and ensure a first win against the Americans since 1957.

Torrance subsequently lost his form, suffering from "the yips", but he has retained his Ryder Cup place by virtue of switching to a 46½-inch brown-handled putter which he helped to develop with the club designer, Harold Swash. "I've been a new man since I started using the putter, and anything that happens with its help is a bonus," Torrance said.

The match-winning incentive comes on the eve of Wilson launching the "Sam Torrance putter" and the player himself could earn an additional £20,000 from sales of the club, which is priced at £75.

Meanwhile, Tony Jacklin, the European captain, yesterday met his 12 players and reported both Torrance (infected foot) and Bernhard Langer (sinusitis) to be fit for the match.

Jacklin was at The Belfry hotel to greet the United States team, following their three-hour flight on a British Airways Concorde specially chartered by Wm. Burris Bennett on behalf of the PGA of America.

Raymond Floyd, the United States captain, and the majority of the American players, met with President George Bush at the White House before their departure. "I hear that the President told them not to come back unless they had the Ryder Cup," Jacklin said.

"Right now I'm encouraged by the form of my players. I've decided on my pairings - there will be a few new combinations - but I'm prepared to listen to what the players have to say. This will be a team effort again."

With Sandy Lyle absent and Roman Rostoff making his debut, Jacklin is well aware that he needs to put together new partnerships. Even so, it would be surprising if he considered breaking up Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazábal, or the other successful combination from 1987, Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam.

Jacklin will supervise the first practice session today. "My suspicion is that the course will be quite slow."

England's search for opponents runs into trouble

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football Association may be thwarted in their efforts to find top-class opposition to play England in place of the Netherlands, with whom a fixture due to be played on December 13 was cancelled last week on the advice of the Government.

The Soviet Union, who are almost certain to be involved in the World Cup finals, have rejected an invitation to appear at Wembley on the date which is now vacant. The FA's representatives are now appealing to other nations who might provide Robson's team with some experience between the fixtures against Italy in November and the Republic of Ireland in March.

Other candidates are France and West Germany, both of whom would probably play at Wembley, or opponents in eastern Europe who would act as the hosts. There are three other choices, none of whom could be regarded as adequate compensation for the loss of the fixture against the current European champions.

One of them is Egypt, where England played two seasons ago. The others are Tunisia, who qualified for the World Cup finals in 1978, and Al-

geria, who competed in the finals four years later. Clearly a trip to north Africa would be less than ideal, with the added pressure of performing against the type of side England would be expected to beat, but which could still cause problems.

Meanwhile, it was confirmed yesterday that England, should they qualify for next summer's World Cup finals, are almost certain to be seeded and based in Sardinia. A letter sent to the organizing committee by Sepp Blatter, the secretary of FIFA, has recommended that Bobby Robson's squad should for security reasons be based there.

The logic is understandable. England are close to being seeded on merit and it would be convenient for the organizers to isolate the nation's troublesome followers. Yet there is a flaw in the argument. It is dangerous to assume that English hooligans will necessarily stay near to the team.

Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, Graham Kelly the chief executive, and Robson himself are in Italy this week a diplomatic mission. Understandably, they would wel-

come the preferential treatment which would elevate England on to a level with the hosts, Argentina and Brazil - the two nations so far assured of competing on the global stage.

Yet they are equally disturbed that the world will inevitably recognize that England have been awarded a place among the elite because of the fearsome reputation of their supporters. The record of Spain in recent international tournaments, for instance, suggests that they have earned at least as much right to be seeded.

England, the unbeaten leaders of Group Two, have yet to concede a goal in the qualifying competition. A victory against Poland in Katowice in their closing tie next month would appease those who believe that the Spaniards have lost the argument for the wrong reasons. There can be no dispute that Sardinia would be an ideal location should England's followers prefer to reside there.

There are only two methods of entry. It is one hour away from the mainland by air and twelve hours by boat but the distance may persuade many to reside instead on the mainland.

United directors ready to support Knighton

By John Goodbody

Two directors of Manchester United were yesterday prepared to support Michael Knighton financially in his £20 million takeover of the club. The deal was jeopardized last week because his main partners pulled out of the deal.

However, Knighton, who has an option to buy the 50.5 per cent of United from Martin Edwards, the present Chairman, was also insisting yesterday that there were no problems. He has insisted that, if necessary, he could proceed alone with gaining control of United by paying £20 per share.

Nevertheless, it would be much easier financially for Knighton if he could be supported by two of the six directors, Amer Al Midani, who himself made a bid this year, and Nigel Burrows. I understand that both are prepared to collaborate with Knighton in a coup to take over the club.

Midani, a Lebanese-born businessman, is the leading shareholder after Edwards with 150,000 (or 15 per cent) of the one million shares, through his company Phileas Establishment. He comes from an extremely wealthy

family and also made money in property and leisure development. He is a former owner of Manchester Giants Basketball Club and has a profound love for the club.

Burrows, a financier, has 50,000 shares (five per cent) and is a long-time supporter of the club, who was voted onto the board at the last AGM. Both thought they originally had first refusal from Edwards, when he wanted to sell the club, and were annoyed when Edwards, both chairman and chief executive, prepared to sell his majority shareholding to Knighton.

Such a deal would heal a split in the board and help Knighton financially because not only would he have the benefit of their money but also would not have to offer £4 million to buy the shares of the pair.

However, Knighton might not be prepared to enter into joint ownership because part of the conditions for their financial support might be that they would wish to alternate the chairmanships.

Knighton has to match his £20 a share offer to the rest of United shareholders within 28 days of Edwards' holding changing hands.

United and both Martin Edwards and I are happy."

The flux in the takeover has occurred because Bob Thornton and Stanley Cohen, his associate, pulled out of M. K. Trafford Holdings, the Isle of Man company, which was set up specifically to take control of United. American Citicorp, which was likely to give the company financial support, also withdrew. Knighton immediately bought Thornton's stake in M. K. Trafford Holdings.

On Saturday, Knighton told an emergency board meeting of United that he still intended to go ahead with the purchase. Edwards has given Knighton a fortnight's extension to let him know in writing whether he is in a financial position to proceed with the deal, although the deadline for the takeover is not until November 1.

Under the rules of the Panel on Take-overs and Mergers, which regulates the conduct of about 250 deals a year involving public liability companies, Knighton has to match his £20 a share offer to the rest of United shareholders within 28 days of Edwards' holding changing hands.



Happy returns Peter Shilton, the England and Derby County goalkeeper, celebrated his fortieth birthday yesterday with a cake presented to him during training. Shilton will leave further celebrating until after the Littlewoods Cup tie against Cambridge United tonight

Offer to Bruno is dismissed

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

An offer of £500,000, for Frank Bruno to challenge Gary Mason for the British heavyweight championship was dismissed last night by Terry Lawless, the manager of both boxers.

Ross Hensworth, a director of Winners Worldwide, who made the offer, said the bout would answer the question every boxing follower was asking. "Does Gary Mason offer us a better chance of being a world champion than Bruno. This is one way to find out."

The figure is an improvement of £100,000 over the last one but it was no surprise that it failed to interest Lawless and his partner, Mickey Duff. Lawless can hardly be expected to eliminate one of his heavyweights from the world rankings when he can get million dollar contests for both of them against Mike Tyson, the world heavyweight champion. If Lawless and Duff were of a mind to cash in on a Bruno v Mason bout, they would put on the show themselves.

Yesterday Lawless dismissed the offer as "pointless and not worth discussing".

Irish regret their SA involvement

By David Hands and George Ace

The Irish Rugby Football Union yesterday expressed official regret at the extent of its involvement in the international tour party that helped celebrate the South African Rugby Board centenary last month.

In a statement responding to a wave of criticism within the Government, the IRFU said: "The committee... has given further detailed and careful consideration to all circumstances surrounding the event and on reflection regrets decisions taken at an earlier stage."

The committee is now fully aware of the depth of feelings subsequently expressed by members of the rugby fraternity and others. The statement reaffirmed opposition to any Irish tour to South Africa while apartheid was still in place and it must be assumed that if, as expected, the South Africans apply to the International Rugby Football Board for another tour next year, Ireland will oppose it.

The tour party last month was managed by Willie John McBride, the former Ireland and British Isles lock, and

included among the players Steve Smith, the present Ireland hooker. The official guests to the SARB celebrations included Ronnie Dawson, the IRFU president, and Sir Ewart Bell, who is Dawson's colleague on the IRFU, while Noel Henderson, the senior vice-president, also attended.

Their participation has resulted in the loss to the IRFU of Government grants up to £35,000, though fears that the union's main sponsors might also withdraw support were allayed last night, when Digital Equipment, the computer company, confirmed its support of international rugby at Lansdowne Road. A spokesman for the company welcomed the IRFU statement and said that it "regarded the matter as closed".

Agan (Reuters) - The match between France and the Lions, scheduled for October 4 as part of the celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, will not enjoy official bicentenary status. The decision by bi-centenary organizers is thought to be a reprisal for the French players' involvement in the tour of South Africa.

Pay dirt and the Channel crossing

By Peter Hills

British rugby union is no better than French when it comes to the matter of illegal payments, according to Adrian Thompson, the former Harlequins midfield player who joined a French club at the start of this season.

Thompson, who was an England replacement last winter, joined the French first division club, Castres, last month. He was anxious yesterday not to be tarred with the brush that, he believed, British Rugby League officials were using to blacken the name of French rugby union.

He was responding to allegations that French rugby union clubs paid their players for performing club business, a practice which would break the regulations governing the amateur sport.

Thompson's view was that different methods may be used across the Channel. But basically, he said, they amounted to offences no greater than those that went on back in Britain.

"There are practices here which I have seen in the United Kingdom," he said. "They are no better or worse and I would not say it is particularly out of control here."

"People are reimbursed for expenses but of course it is the degree to which you are reimbursed which matters. But patronage exists everywhere. For example, it was accepted at Harlequins that you could talk to someone who would



Thompson: saw no evidence introduce you to someone else to get you the introduction you needed for a job. That exists in all British clubs but I suppose you could say it was a benefit from playing."

Thompson said he has seen no evidence of players being paid in France. But he admitted: "Everything is done on an individual basis. But there is nothing here I have seen which has surprised me in terms of massive inducements or anything like that."

"I am sure some people may say the only reason I would have come here was to earn money. But that was not the case. I worked for a subsidiary of a French company in High Wycombe and was asked if I would like a 12-month sabbatical in France working for the parent company and playing rugby. I thought it was a great chance, but that was all."

People in France, said Thompson, felt that if players put the effort into the game that they should be some kind of compensation. "In my view that is fair enough. We are only in this situation because of archaic Victorian rules. No one wants to get paid for playing rugby union but the demands from players now, especially in international squads, are unreasonable."

He concluded: "In France, things are certainly more overt. But patronage goes on everywhere, in England, Wales and certainly New Zealand. It is just done a bit more discreetly in London, that is all."

understand that the London club, Wasps, have written to their north London rivals, Saracens, apologizing for the manner in which they Saracens No. 8 forward Dean Ryan joined them during the summer. Certainly, the recruitment problem within rugby union in both England and Wales has become such that the authorities may soon be called upon to provide legislation intended to halt an increasingly unwholesome trade.

The leading French clubs are also no strangers to recruiting the finest players, particularly if those players have fallen upon hard times with an unsuccessful club. However, French president Albert Ferrasse, adhering to the principle that the best form of defence is attack, continued to vilify the allegations voiced in *The Times* last week by British Rugby League official David Oxley over claims of professionalism in France. Ferrasse said yesterday: "Stories claiming that players get more than a certain amount are humbug."

Whistling for a wind in the doldrums

The Equator

The past week has been one of the most frustrating in my entire sailing career. If the winds had been half as fickle and unpredictable as an Olympic regatta, or even for a round the bays offshore event, as they were for us in the doldrums last weekend, then the organizers would have had no qualms about cancelling. We would all have been back in the bar grinning at the weather and hoping for better conditions tomorrow.

For us however, the clock has been ticking away remorselessly as Rothmans sat drifting on a painted sea. With no escape from the intense humidity, all we could do was sweat it out and hope that our rivals faced the same frustrating culms.

The fast moving clouds made it hard to predict from



The skipper of Rothmans with his latest dispatch from mid-Atlantic

the very clear satellite pictures received on board, just where the doldrums were at their narrowest. No sooner had a gap appeared, than it moved 300 miles east or west, making it impossible to plan ahead. Atmospherics, too, were particularly bad, blocking out our radio transmissions for four days.

It took us a day to sniff out the beginnings of the south-east trades, during which time we drifted helplessly on six agonizing occasions. When the

winds did blow, they came from all directions, and life on board was ruled by an incessant round of sail changes in a desperate effort to make the most of each tantalizing puff.

It was more tiring than when the winds topped 50 knots the week before, and the effort we put in was out of all proportion to the meagre 3-4 knots we squeezed out of the boat during those lousy 24 hours. As it turned out, we came through the calms as well as anyone except Stealinger 2, which has now pulled out an impressive 300-mile lead.

The latest positions given by all the yachts during yesterday's daily chat show, (which is 12 hours ahead of the latest satellite plots) puts Rothmans in fourth place 88 miles behind Merit and 20

miles south of Grant Dalton's New Zealand ketch, Fisher & Paykel.

We are now enjoying a more favourable angle to the wind than both these boats which are well to the west, and are looking to narrow the gap and even overtake them during the final 2,000 miles through the south-east trades. However, there is not much we can do about Stealinger, for as long as the big red ketch continues to pull away, by 20 miles, as we can do is aim to be second into Punta del Este, the first port of call in this 33,000-mile marathon.

We crossed the Equator at 5am yesterday, but with the winds still more from the east than from the south, it was no time to party, much to the

relief of Vincent Geeke, our Crewsearch recruit.

He has been living these past days in some dread, wondering what we had in store for his "inauguration". He didn't know we forgot to pack the shaving cream and fancy dress equipment, and now that Rothmans is climbing the southern latitudes, his hair is clear. But perhaps we can still surprise him with a belated ceremony once the business of catching Merit has been achieved.

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Wandering women

Wycombe Wanderers have become the first GM Vauxhall Conference side to adopt a women's football team. The Wycombe Wanderers Ladies have applied to join the Greater London Women's League and will use training facilities at Lookers Park.

Athlete to take court action against IOC

By John Goodbody

Alex Watson, the Australian modern pentathlete who was disqualified from the Olympic Games in Seoul for failing a drugs test, said yesterday that he would take the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to court.

Watson, banned from competing for two years for an excessive caffeine level, claimed the IOC had failed to give him a fair hearing. He said: "I have exhausted all the normal channels and the only thing left is to take these people to an international legal forum to try to have the matter properly heard."

Watson will be the first athlete to institute legal action against the IOC through the International Court of Arbitration for Sport in

Switzerland. The court is an independent body.

Watson, who has always maintained his innocence, said: "All I took was 10 to 12 cups of coffee and cola, which is a perfectly acceptable and common level of consumption among pentathletes."

The IOC maintains that Watson, unless he had taken another substance also containing caffeine, would have needed to drink 30 to 40 cups of coffee to record a level of 14.45 milligrams per litre, 2.45mg/l above the permitted limit.

Watson also claimed that the IOC has never admitted that because of variances in body metabolism, caffeine consumption has widely differing effects on

Marshall farewell

Malcolm Marshall, the West Indian fast bowler, yesterday announced that next summer will be his last in county cricket for Hampshire. Marshall will continue to play for Barbados and West Indies but has decided to leave Hampshire when his contract expires at the end of next season.

Marshall, aged 31, who joined Hampshire in 1979, has taken 677 wickets in 160 first-class matches and scored 4,122 runs.

Rider critical

Erik Gundersen, the former speedway world champion, was in the intensive-care unit of Wakefield's Pinderfields Hospital with severe spinal injuries after a crash during the world team final on Sunday. A brief statement from the hospital said the Danish rider was critically ill.

Final triumph

England won the European women's senior team golf championship at Montreux, beating France by three matches to two in the final. Anne Howard and Catherine Bailey were unbeaten in singles and doubles.

Taylor chosen

The gymnast, Clare Taylor, aged 15, is included in the Northern Ireland team for the Commonwealth Games in Auckland. Taylor clinched her place with victory in an international meeting in Belgium.

Barrett bout

Pat Barrett, the British lightweight boxing champion, meets the American, Dana Roston, in a non-title bout at London Arena tonight.

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